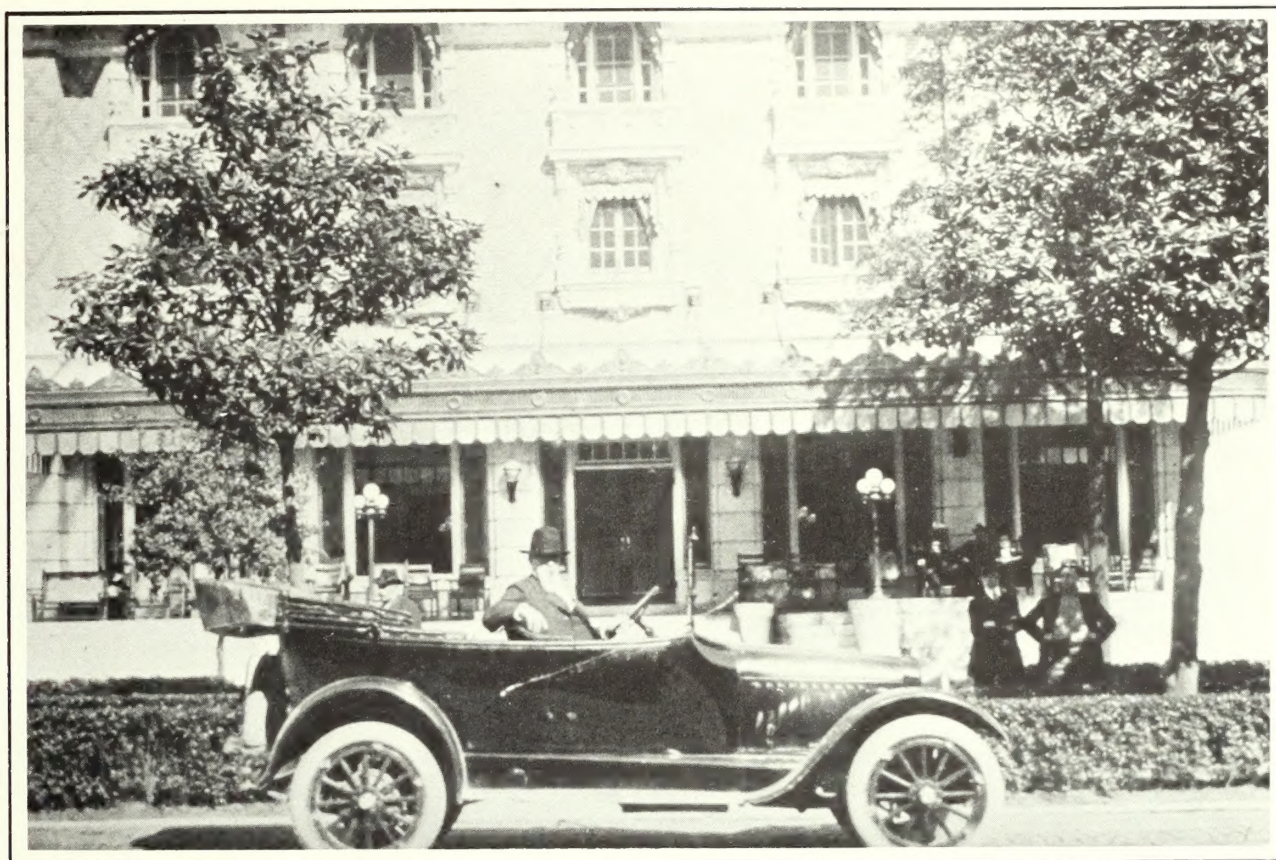


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Historic Furnishings Report

# HOT SPRINGS

FORDYCE BATHHOUSE

National Park / Arkansas

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**HISTORIC FURNISHINGS REPORT**

**THE FORDYCE BATHHOUSE**

**HOT SPRINGS NATIONAL PARK**

**Arkansas**

**by**

**Carol A. Petravage**

**Harpers Ferry Center  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior**



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## ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

### LOCATION AND PROPOSED USE

Set aside for public use by the U.S. Government in 1832, Hot Springs Reservation was added to the National Park System in 1916 and was officially designated a National Park on March 4, 1921. The Fordyce Bathhouse stands at the main entrance to Hot Springs National Park and will serve as the primary area of visitor contact. The bathhouse will contain visitor services and interpretive media, including 23 historically furnished areas.

Planning documents affecting the use and management of the structure are:

IDLCS: 00713, Management Category A. Added to the National Register November 13, 1974.

Statement for Management, 1977

Collection Preservation Guide, 1980

Bathhouse Row Adaptive Use Program, The Fordyce Bathhouse, Technical Report 5, 1985

Historic Grounds and Structures -- An Interim Report on Bathhouse Row, 1985

General Management Plan/Development Concept Plan/Environmental Assessment, 1985

Interpretive Prospectus, 1986

Historic Structure Report, draft, 1986



## HISTORICAL DATA

### EXAMINATION OF SOURCES

The Fordyce Bathhouse Historic Furnishings Report draws on documentary, pictorial, and oral sources. The documentary evidence consists largely of correspondence. Park Service correspondence is located in the Central Files of Hot Springs National Park and in Record Group 79 at the National Archives. Much of this correspondence contains duplicate data. Personal correspondence and letters between the Fordyces and the bathhouse managers are located at the Arkansas History Commission, at the Special Collections Department of the University of Arkansas (Fayetteville), at Hot Springs National Park, and in the personal collections of John R. Fordyce, III, and Edward Fordyce. Many bathhouse records that remained in the park after the Fordyce Bathhouse closed were transferred to the Special Collections of the University of Arkansas. Also at the university is the Mary Hudgins Collection, an extensive collection of materials relating to the bathhouses, Hot Springs, and Arkansas in general. Mary Hudgins is the widely recognized authority on the local history of Hot Springs and has been collecting material on the bathhouses for decades. Although largely unprocessed so far, this collection will be an invaluable resource for the Special History Study on Hot Springs now in preparation. Newspaper articles published when the Fordyce Bathhouse opened provide good descriptions of the facilities available in 1915. However, these accounts can be misleading, as the reports exaggerate some of the amenities available. Also, some advertisements boast of facilities unavailable at the Fordyce. Therefore, newspaper accounts and advertisements should be used with caution. The last category of documentary evidence includes medical textbooks from the period 1900-1935. These textbooks help explain the variety of therapies used at the Fordyce Bathhouse.

Most pictorial material is drawn from advertising brochures published by the Fordyce management during its operation. Most of these brochures

can be found in the curatorial files at Hot Springs National Park. Known advertising material used as evidence in this report is listed below:

"Fordyce Bath House" (1915) -- Correspondence clearly proves that the first printing of these booklets was received by the bathhouse in September 1915.<sup>1</sup> The original printing of 25,000 was almost exhausted by November 1917, and an additional order of approximately 26,000 copies was placed that month.<sup>2</sup> This booklet must be used with caution. Two of the interior shots (the beauty shop and the stateroom) were photographed in the second floor women's cooling room, since the cooling room provided a larger, more attractive backdrop for the photograph than the real spaces. The photograph labeled "bath room" is, in actuality, a photograph of part of the hydrotherapy room. The massage room photograph is actually a picture of the massage room in the old Palace Bathhouse. The massage rooms in the Fordyce were very small and probably very spartan. It is impossible to know to what extent furniture and accessories were moved around for photographic purposes, although certain items do appear in more than one picture. Taking all these things into consideration, these photographs are still the best evidence for refurnishing the Fordyce interior, and can be used if careful attention is paid to their shortcomings.

"Maintaining a Standard" (c.1916-1920) -- The testimonial letter, dated October 1916, reproduced at the back of this brochure indicates that the brochure was published after 1916. The photographs reproduced in this booklet are identical to those in "Fordyce Bath House."

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1. John F. Manier to Samuel W. Fordyce, September 2, 1915, Private collection of family papers belonging to John R. Fordyce, III, Little Rock, AR (hereafter cited as JRF).

2. John F. Manier to Samuel W. Fordyce, November 8, 1917, Private collection of family papers belonging to Edward Fordyce, St. Louis, MO (hereafter cited as EF); John F. Manier to John R. Fordyce, February 4, 1918, EF; John F. Manier to Samuel W. Fordyce, July 26, 1918, EF.



Cutter's Guide to Hot Springs (1907, 1914-1917) -- These tourist guides were published yearly between 1874 and 1917. Each guide contains photographs and a description of all the bathhouses. The Palace Bathhouse interior photographs were obtained from the 1907 Cutter's Guide. The Fordyce photographs in the 1914-1917 Cutter's Guides are the same as the photos in "Fordyce Bath House," but the interior photos of the other bathhouses are useful for comparative purposes.

"Health Awaits You at the Fordyce Baths" (c.1925-1930) -- The style of illustration and costume and an examination of the Fordyce's advertising expenditures suggests that this booklet dates to 1925-1930. Half of the interior photographs are identical to the ones in "Fordyce Bath House." The picture of the men's bath hall was taken after the installation of the de Soto fountain. The assembly room, lobby fountain, and men's pack room pictures are new. One confusing aspect of this booklet is the inclusion of photographs of both the ladies' parlor (room 307) and the beauty shop after the latter was moved into room 307. Evidently, this is simply another example of exaggerated advertising.

"Fordyce Baths" (c.1934-1939) -- This brochure contains the first completely new set of photographs taken since the bathhouse opened and is the first brochure to include honest photographs of the massage rooms and staterooms. The exhibit cases appear in the assembly room, but the Hubbard Tub is not mentioned, therefore, this brochure must have been produced between 1934 and 1939.

Hubbard Tub photos (1939) -- These three photographs are marked "DeLuxe Studios, 1939" and were probably taken for the initial advertising campaign for the Hubbard Tub.

"Life Begins Again at the Fordyce" (c.1940s) -- This booklet prominently features the Hubbard Tub and therefore dates to 1939 or later. Although the Hubbard Tub ceased regular operation in 1942, it is well documented that the Fordyce Bathhouse continued to advertise this feature into the 1950s.

"The Fordyce Baths" (c.1940s) -- The copy in this brochure is identical to that in "Fordyce Baths." The bathhouse management updated the old brochure with new photographs to advertise the recently opened Hubbard Tub.

Postcards (1915-1950s) -- Postcard views of the exterior of the Fordyce Bathhouse are useful in describing the various kinds of porch furniture in use. Unfortunately, most of the postcards are impossible to date precisely.

"Hot Springs," by Phil Stong, Holiday, January 1951 -- This article provides some excellent interior views of the Fordyce. Unfortunately, it is unclear which interior photos were actually taken in the Fordyce Bathhouse. The photo of the Hubbard Tub indicates that this facility was used on a limited basis in the early 1950s.

Various medical textbooks from the 1900-1935 period provide photographs and illustrations which help to describe the various kinds of therapy available at the Fordyce.

Oral interviews were conducted with John R. Fordyce, III, and his wife Patricia; Downs Fordyce; and Mrs. Agnes Neimeyer. Over the years, park staff have interviewed many former employees of the Fordyce and others associated with the bathhouse. All of these interviews represent recollections of activities and objects 20 to 40 years in the past and, therefore, are best used when substantiated with documentary or pictorial evidence.

Major sources of information about the Fordyce yet to be explored are the personal collections of Edward Fordyce and William Fordyce. The period 1920 to 1930 particularly lacks documentation. Perhaps when and if these personal collections of papers become available for research many unanswered questions will be resolved.

## ANALYSIS OF HISTORIC OCCUPANCY

For centuries, native Americans frequented the Hot Springs of Arkansas, supposedly designating the valley as neutral ground. Legends claim that Hernando de Soto and his men were the first European visitors to the springs. The United States acquired Hot Springs from France as part of the Louisiana Purchase.<sup>3</sup>

Throughout the first half of the nineteenth century, non-natives drifted into the area and settled near the springs, eventually establishing small hotels and boarding houses for visiting travelers. In 1832 Congress passed a bill that set aside the land surrounding the hot springs as a federal reserve for public use. For many years local residents disputed the U.S. government's claim to the land and springs, but in 1876 the U.S. Supreme Court decided the issue in favor of the federal government.<sup>4</sup> After the first superintendent was appointed in 1877, the bathhouse owners were made concessioners of the U.S. government and operated their bathhouses under lease from the Secretary of the Interior. In 1878 the superintendent established the collection of a water rent from each bathhouse based on the number of tubs in operation.<sup>5</sup> Also at this time, rules and regulations were established concerning the operation of the bathhouses. These regulations, which were amended through the years, ultimately set the water rent, bath rates, and salaries; established rules for bathing practices and bathhouse operation; required new bathhouse employees to pass a qualifying examination; and obliged physicians to be licensed or registered by the Hot Springs National Park Federal Registration Board before they were allowed to prescribe the waters.<sup>6</sup>

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3. Dee Brown, The American Spa (Little Rock, AR: Rose Publishing Company, 1982), p. 9-10.

4. Ibid., pp. 11-16.

5. Francis J. Scully, Hot Springs, Arkansas and Hot Springs National Park (Little Rock, AR: Pioneer Press, 1966), p. 124.

6. Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas: Regulations covering Bathhouses and Their Operation, Bath Attendants and the Federal Registration Board (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1937), pp. 1-23.

Originally, visitors to Hot Springs took their baths in pools formed by the springs. The earliest bathhouses were no more than crude huts with wooden tubs. After the fire of 1878 and the enclosure of Hot Springs Creek in 1884, a series of large frame bathhouses were built along the resulting avenue that created the framework for Bathhouse Row.<sup>7</sup> By the early twentieth century, many of these wooden bathhouses were becoming run down. A Department of the Interior policy promulgated in 1910 required all bathhouse owners to erect new, sanitary, modern bathhouses before their leases could be renewed.<sup>8</sup> This action resulted in the building and remodeling of the bathhouses now seen along Bathhouse Row (from north to south): the Superior (opened 1916), the Hale (remodeled 1914), the Maurice (opened 1912), the Fordyce (opened 1915), the Quapaw (opened 1922), the Ozark (opened 1922), the Buckstaff (opened 1912), and the Lamar (opened 1923). Most of these bathhouses operated under a 20-year lease agreement, with detailed inspections by the superintendent and extensive repairs often required before a lease could be renewed.

More information on the early years of Hot Springs and the relationship between the National Park Service and the bathhouses is contained in Historic Grounds and Structures: An Interim Report on Bathhouse Row (1985), by Diane Rhodes, and in the historical data section of the Historic Structure Report: Fordyce Bathhouse, by Wilson Stiles (draft 1986).

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7. Brown, pp. 28, 31-32, 82.

8. Diane Rhodes, Historic Grounds and Structures: An Interim Report on Bathhouse Row (Denver Service Center, 1985), p. 74.



1912-1986 -- Overview of Fordyce Bathhouse Managers and Hot Springs  
Reservation and National Park Service Superintendents

Fordyce Bathhouse Managers		Hot Springs Reservation (until 1921) and Hot Springs National Park Superintendents
	1909	Harry H. Meyers
	1913	Charles R. Trowbridge
	1914	Dr. William P. Parks
John F. Manier	1915	
	1922	Dr. Clarence H. Waring
E.W. Polk	1923	
Talbot P. Shelby	1923	
	1924	Dr. Joseph Bolten
H.H. Julian	c.1925	
	1928	
Frank A. Stearns	1929	Dr. Hugh De Valin
	1930	Dr. George L. Collins
Elizabeth M. Gibson	1932	Thomas J. Allen, Jr.
Byron L. Neimeyer	1933	
	1936	Donald S. Libbey
	1939	Preston P. Patraw
	1943	John W. Emmert
	1944	Donald S. Libbey
	1946	Thomas Boles
	1951	Donald S. Libbey
	1959	H. Raymond Gregg
Fordyce Bathhouse Closed	1962	Robert H. Atkinson
	1963	Bernard T. Campbell
	1973	Bernard Goodman
	1977	Richard H. Maeder
	1981	Roger Giddings

## 1912-1915 -- Planning and Construction of the Fordyce Bathhouse

Railroad magnate and entrepreneur Samuel W. Fordyce (1840-1919) dated his association with Hot Springs to 1873. In that year, Fordyce sought a cure at Hot Springs for the diarrhea, chills, and fever he still suffered from as a result of wounds incurred during the Civil War. After taking the baths and drinking the water for several months, he experienced a miraculous recovery, regaining the use of his right leg and left arm and gaining 20 lbs. In Fordyce's words, "feeling that it was entirely by the use of hot water that I was restored to health I concluded to erect and equip the finest bathing establishment in the world."<sup>9</sup>

Fordyce's first efforts resulted in the construction of the Palace Bathhouse, a frame building located on the site of another bathhouse that had been destroyed in a fire in 1878.<sup>10</sup> By 1910, the Palace was becoming run down and repairs were eating up the profits.

"Old houses like ours are very expensive to keep up, as repairs are always necessary," wrote W.G. Maurice, owner/manager of the Maurice Bathhouse, to Fordyce.<sup>11</sup> Although Fordyce always insisted that his interests in Hot Springs were purely of a sentimental nature, he kept a close eye on the bottom line of the balance sheets. Fordyce, a shrewd financier, disliked investing money in an unprofitable business. Because repairs had become so expensive, the manager of the Palace suggested that Fordyce replace the Palace with a modern building; only

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9. S.W. Fordyce to John R. Fordyce, December 26, 1914, Private collection of family papers belonging to John R. Fordyce, III, Little Rock, AR (hereafter cited as JRF).

10. Scully, p. 207.

11. W.G. Maurice to S.W. Fordyce, January 22, 1910, JRF.

then could they compete successfully with the group of bathhouses being built in Hot Springs in the early 1910s. Unfortunately, at the same time Fordyce was suffering various financial setbacks. "It has been my purpose all along to tear down the present Palace, commencing about now, and submit plans for a new house, but recently I have had to face a loss of something over \$400,000.00," wrote Fordyce in 1912.<sup>12</sup> He complained in 1914 that "the terrible prosecution and persecution of railroads by the Interstate Commerce Commission and the State Commission has pretty nearly thrown me into bankruptcy."<sup>13</sup> In addition to this, the war in Europe contributed to generally unsettled financial conditions.

Finally, although not without regrets, Fordyce's civic feelings prevailed.

I think I can do much better with the \$100,000 than I can by spending it in a bath house here, and I would not think of doing this except that I am, so to speak, a pioneer of this place and much interested in its development, and have given directions to almost everything of a public nature that has been done here since<sup>14</sup> the Supreme Court decided that this was Government property.

Fordyce's new bathhouse would be "provided with...every facility possible for the comfort not only of the bathers but of patrons who may wish to use the bath house more or less as a club or resting place."<sup>15</sup>

Fordyce contracted with the Little Rock architectural firm of Mann and Stern for the design of the bathhouse. When the Palace was torn down, the bricks and heavy timbers were saved "to be used in the walls and in

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12. S.W. Fordyce to William T.S. Curtis, April 30, 1912, JRF.

13. S.W. Fordyce to F.B.T. Hollenberg, December 14, 1914, JRF.

14. S.W. Fordyce to William T.S. Curtis, April 10, 1913, JRF.

15. George R. Mann to Charles R. Trowbridge, November 10, 1913, National Archives, RG-79, Washington, D.C.

the concrete construction of the new house."<sup>16</sup> Some of the fixtures were sold, but much of the furniture was saved and reused in the new bathhouse.

John R. Fordyce (1869-1939), Samuel W. Fordyce's son, acted as a supervising engineer for the bathhouse. John Fordyce questioned many aspects of the blueprints provided by Mann and Stern and made many changes to the building during its construction. These changes are summarized in a letter from Eugene J. Stern to Dr. William P. Parks, dated February 10, 1915, included in the appendix. Also included in the appendix is a statement of the total cost of the building, furnishing, and equipment of the bathhouse.

Finances were a problem throughout the construction of the house. "I think now that I made a mistake trying to build such a fine house," wrote Samuel W. Fordyce in July of 1914. "I could have built a house for half this amount of money, which I think would have paid a better interest on the money invested than this one promises to do."<sup>17</sup> In fact, in August 1914 Fordyce's money situation was so tight that he momentarily contemplated stopping work on the bathhouse as soon as it was roofed.<sup>18</sup>

World War I caused more than financial problems for Fordyce and his bathhouse. The disruption of trade with Europe prevented the marble suppliers, Southwestern Tile Company, from buying the imported marble in New Orleans for the Fordyce Bathhouse. Fortunately, John Fordyce located another supply of marble already in the country at the Peoria

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16. John R. Fordyce to Samuel W. Fordyce, January 16, 1914, JRF.

17. S.W. Fordyce to John R. Fordyce, July 2, 1914, JRF.

18. S.W. Fordyce to John F. Manier, August 12, 1914, JRF.



Marble Works in Peoria, Illinois.<sup>19</sup> This marble evidently did not come up to the standards desired for the new bathhouse, since S.W. Fordyce mentions the possibility of getting "some discount [from the Marble and Tile Company] occasioned by their lack of furnishing the right kind of marble."<sup>20</sup>

More problems resulted from the plastering work performed by C.B. Humphrey of Hot Springs. After the walls were plastered and the plaster began to dry, large yellow splotches and streaks appeared. A long discussion with the plasterers followed, with John Fordyce arguing that the plasterers furnished defective material. Although John Fordyce had hoped to save money by postponing the painting of the interior spaces, the badly discolored plaster made the painting of the dressing rooms, lobby, assembly room, and parlors unavoidable.<sup>21</sup> The entire interior of the bathhouse was repainted in 1918.

Problems with the construction continued even after the bathhouse opened. Architect George Mann, Callahan the plumber, and Fordyce Bathhouse Manager John F. Manier each had his own ideas on how the new bathhouse should be plumbed. Unfortunately, the resulting compromise was unworkable. John F. Manier outlined the required modifications in a letter to Samuel W. Fordyce.

1st Increasing the Compression Tank Capacity from 1800 gallons to approximately 8,000 gallons, installing Pumps and motors sufficiently large to supply same, and making all necessary and proper connections and cross connections. 2nd Changing all the Supply and Drains in all of the Vapors to make same effective, for in the condition they were in they were both inefficient and unsanitary. All the floors of these Vapors were obliged to be taken up as they were higher then the main floor and water was constantly running out over the bath room

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19. John R. Fordyce to S.W. Fordyce, March 9, 1915 and August 18, 1914, JRF.

20. S.W. Fordyce to John R. Fordyce, January 12, 1915, JRF.

21. John R. Fordyce to S.W. Fordyce, December 19, 1914, JRF.

floors. This is also true in regard to the needle and shower baths, the drains of which were all improperly set. 3rd installing a complete new line of Drinking fountains in the bath rooms and connecting them direct with the hot water supply. Under the present condition we cannot get water any hotter than 110 degrees during two thirds of the day, and people complain that this is not hot enough to be palatable. When these fountains (which are nothing more than  $\frac{1}{2}$ " nickle plate pipe with a bib at the end) are installed we will be able to get water over 135 degrees. 4th correcting the Drinking system throughout the house. 5th covering all hot water pipes with Asbestos, and all cold water pipes with felt. 6th Soldering all joints in the Air Ducts to stop the leakage, and save a big waste of fuel. Covering all uncovered ducts with asbestos, and recovering a large portion that is insufficiently covered. 7th Changing the radiation in the Hot Room and increasing same to bring the temperature up to 150 degrees (140 degrees is the hottest we can now get it in mild weather)<sup>22</sup> and making many other small corrections and changes.

Despite the inevitable delays and financial scares, the Fordyce Bathhouse was finally completed in February 1915.

#### 1915-1923 -- Aggressive Management Under John F. Manier

On March 1, 1915, the Fordyce Bathhouse, "the most palatial and best equipped bathing establishment in the world," opened to the public with John F. Manier as manager and his wife as manager of the ladies' department.<sup>23</sup> Manier moved to the Fordyce Bathhouse from his former position as manager of the Palace Bathhouse. His management was characterized by aggressive promotion of the bathhouse through newspaper and periodical advertisements, souvenir booklets, special events, and personal promotion. Manier also promoted the development of the "sidelines" at the bathhouse. The departments of massage, mercury rubbing, hairdressing

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22. John F. Manier to S.W. Fordyce, December 14, 1915, JRF.

23. Hot Springs New Era, February 27, 1915, p. 3.

and chiropody were more profitable than the ordinary tub baths. Manier tangled frequently with park superintendents over rates and wages for these departments, as well as over the appropriate uses for the assembly room, ladies' parlor or music room, and gymnasium. The park superintendents felt that the bathhouses should be in the business of providing baths for reasonable prices, while the bathhouses, naturally enough, were most concerned with turning a profit. The park superintendents also received constant complaints from the cheaper bathhouses that the extra services provided by the Fordyce resulted in unfair competition. These disagreements continued until around 1920, when the relationship between the park superintendent and the Fordyce management improved.

As soon as Manier took over as manager, he discovered that the mechanism for producing cold water to temper the hot water for the baths, for various hydrotherapy treatments, and for cold drinking water was inadequate.<sup>24</sup> To provide cool water for tempering the baths, the Fordyce management constructed a cooling tower on the roof of the building and used the wind to cool the water down from 135°F to approximately five degrees below the atmospheric temperature.<sup>25</sup> These towers, however, could not cool the water sufficiently for drinking and hydrotherapy. John Fordyce explained to his father that "doctors here are not using these hydro apparatus, because of the fact that none of them are equipped with any device for getting water cooler than 80 degrees, whereas they should have water below 60."<sup>26</sup> To resolve this difficulty, John Fordyce installed a refrigerating machine in the basement of the building and piped the cooled water to the hydrotherapy room and the drinking fountains.<sup>27</sup>

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24. William P. Parks to Secretary, Department of the Interior, June 3, 1915, National Archives, RG-79.

25. John R. Fordyce to Dr. William P. Parks, June 2, 1915, National Archives, RG-79.

26. John R. Fordyce to S.W. Fordyce, April 14, 1915, JRF.

27. John R. Fordyce to William P. Parks, June 22, 1915, National Archives, RG-79.



Disagreements arose with the park superintendent over the appropriate uses of the bathhouse as early as November 1915. Local business and professional men had asked Manier several times for permission to use the gymnasium in the Fordyce for exercise and sports practice several evenings a week. This presented two problems. First, the bathhouse would have to be open in the evenings, and second, these men would not be "bona fide" bathers at the Fordyce. Manier wrote to Superintendent William P. Parks proposing that these men buy bathing tickets and be considered "bathers." In addition, they would be charged 10 cents each toward the salary of an instructor who would conduct classes in the gymnasium.<sup>28</sup> Parks, expressing concern that the businessmen would become bathers at the Fordyce Bathhouse only for the purpose of using the gym, felt that this proposal "would require the solicitation of business in a manner not heretofore contemplated," and denied the request.<sup>29</sup>

This denial irritated Samuel Fordyce, who already felt "greatly annoyed and hindered in the work here, by reason of technical and, in my judgment, ridiculous requirements made by the representative of the Government here."<sup>30</sup> Writing to Stephen T. Mather, then the Assistant Secretary of the Department of the Interior, Fordyce asserted that "the Fordyce Bath House was not erected for revenue, that this house is a credit to the Interior Department, and that [he] ought to be congratulated by the Department for its construction."<sup>31</sup> Fordyce did not pursue the use of the gym by the professional men in this letter, but instead requested "to utilize the gymnasium in the interest of the public schools at Hot Springs and the music room for the purpose of occa-

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28. John F. Manier to William P. Parks, November 6, 1915, JRF.

29. William P. Parks to John F. Manier, November 10, 1915, JRF.

30. S.W. Fordyce to W.T.S. Curtis, February 17, 1914, JRF.

31. S.W. Fordyce to Stephen Mather, December 22, 1915, JRF.



sionally having that room used by the music loving people of Hot Springs on certain stated occasions."<sup>32</sup> Fordyce also wrote to Joe T. Robinson, U.S. Senator from Arkansas and a personal friend. Unfortunately, even political pressure did not help. In Mather's firm reply, he stated that:

I think the law is very clear that the Secretary of the Interior has no authority to permit the use of the reservation front for any other purpose than for the erection and maintenance of bathhouses. Consideration which I gave your manager's letter upon my return to Washington from my Hot Springs trip convinces me, that aside from the legal objections which I consider as controlling, it would not be in the interest of sanitation to permit the use of any of the bathhouses on the reservation as pleasure resorts of any character.<sup>33</sup>

These letters were merely the opening volleys in a battle that took place on a large scale between 1915 and 1920 and later on and off until the Fordyce Bathhouse closed. The Park Service insisted on a strict interpretation of the activities of bathhouses, while the Fordyce management wanted to fully exploit its facilities, both from a monetary and civic-minded point of view. Samuel Fordyce was enraged that after spending \$250,000 on his bathhouse, he was only getting 3-3/4 percent return on his investment, while the other bathhouses which cost \$60-70,000 were earning 10 to 20 percent.<sup>34</sup>

It seems to me that I am simply penalized by the Department for building the finest and best equipped batheing establishment in the world, [complained Fordyce.] You can readily see that by compelling me to charge more money for baths and then not permitting me to give the public the benefit of what has cost me so much money, looks to me like an outrage.<sup>35</sup>

The park superintendent fielded not only Fordyce's complaints, but also the complaints and squabbles of all competing bathhouses. Soon after

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32. Ibid.

33. Stephen T. Mather to S.W. Fordyce, January 20, 1916, JRF.

34. S.W. Fordyce to Samuel M. Taylor, April 17, 1918, JRF.

35. Ibid.

the gym and music room use issue, another problem arose involving the use of the Fordyce roof garden. Gus Strauss, the president of the Hot Springs Business Men's League, asked Superintendent Parks if a band could play on the roof of the Fordyce. Parks said that there might be objections from the other bathhouses, and Strauss agreed to cancel the concerts if any problems occurred. Later, Parks received many calls from other managers complaining that "it would be an unequal advantage for that bathhouse," and Parks was forced to order the band to play on neutral territory below the bandstand near Central Avenue.<sup>36</sup>

This ruling infuriated Samuel Fordyce, following as it did so closely on the previous refusals for use of the gym and the music room. Once again Fordyce tried applying political pressure, this time with a two page telegram to Congressman Samuel M. Taylor (Sixth District Arkansas).<sup>37</sup> The legislator was unable to secure any redress. The Secretary of the Interior supported this attempt to curb competition between the bathhouses and stated that "the attractive character of the Fordyce Bathhouse as it affords to a certain extent a decided advantage over the other bathhouses, and giving due consideration to other bathhouses on the reservation, I do not see my way clear to disturb the action of the superintendent" regarding the use of the roof garden.<sup>38</sup>

In his report on the roof garden affair, Superintendent Parks complained that giving concerts on the Fordyce roof "was probably an idea of Mr. Manier, the manager of the Fordyce Bathhouse, who perhaps desired to secure some advantage in the way of advertisement, although I do not

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36. William P. Parks to the Secretary, Department of the Interior, April 4, 1916, pp. 1-2, National Archives, RG-79.

37. Telegram from S.W. Fordyce to Samuel M. Taylor, March 20, 1916, HOSP Central Files.

38. Quoted in Samuel M. Taylor to S.W. Fordyce, April 12, 1916, JRF.

think there was any necessity for the same."<sup>39</sup> Parks then added that "Mr. Manier has given me more trouble than any other bathhouse man, since I assumed charge of the Reservation."<sup>40</sup> Manier had been implicated in drumming activities (the illegal solicitation of bathers) several years earlier and was well known for his entrepreneurial skills and vigorous promotion of any business in which he was involved. Manier was in a difficult position. On the one hand, Samuel Fordyce was breathing down his neck to increase the profits on the bathhouse operation. This was a difficult proposition since Fordyce had invested so much money in the bathhouse and the superintendent had set the price for bathing at the Fordyce Bathhouse higher than for any other bathhouse because of its superior facilities. Also, Manier's salary was supplemented by a commission based on bathhouse profits. On the other hand, virtually every gimmick, advertising scheme, or lure Manier used to bring more people into the Fordyce Bathhouse was frowned upon or simply banned by the superintendent. Essentially Manier and the superintendent were at loggerheads -- Manier wanted to use the superior facilities at the Fordyce to attract bathers from other bathhouses and increase his profits, while the superintendent wanted to encourage harmony and reduce competition among the bathhouses.

Added to these problems were the difficulties associated with World War I. The curtailment of railroad travel was a severe blow because trains were the only comfortable link between Hot Springs and the rest of the country. Fuel rationing also hurt a business dependent on maintaining high temperatures in many rooms. Manier wrote, "We are experiencing much difficulty with the fuel proposition, but I have managed so far to keep all departments up to standard heat temperature. Have used Coal,

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39. William P. Parks to the Secretary, Department of the Interior, April 4, 1916, p. 3, National Archives, RG-79.

40. Ibid., p. 4.



Wood, Gas and trash but kept her going O.K."<sup>41</sup> Samuel Fordyce wrote his concerns to his son John, "I want to caution you to take care of every dollar that you can, there is no telling what the condition of affairs is going to be in this country when the war is over. My income has already been cut down about one-third."<sup>42</sup>

Despite economic pressures, Manier encouraged the completion of the interior painting that was only partially finished prior to the opening of the bathhouse.<sup>43</sup> Samuel Fordyce agreed, suggesting only that Manier secure bids from a number of painting firms.<sup>44</sup> On Manier's advice, Samuel Fordyce let the contract to Whittington and Stearns of Hot Springs, the lowest bidder. During the fall of 1918 the firm painted the entire interior of the bathhouse including those rooms painted in 1915.<sup>45</sup>

At the same time, Manier requested and received permission to expand the massage department. When originally built, the massage department consisted of two rooms on the second floor, one for hand massage and electrical treatments and the other for mechano-therapy, and massage facilities for ladies on the third floor. Manier soon realized that these original facilities were inadequate and that he was losing a great deal of business as a result. The loss of massage business was

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41. John F. Manier to John R. Fordyce, January 20, 1917, Arkansas History Commission.

42. S.W. Fordyce to John R. Fordyce, February 6, 1918, Arkansas History Commission.

43. John F. Manier to S.W. Fordyce, July 10, 1918, Private collection of family papers belonging to Edward Fordyce, St. Louis, MO (hereafter cited as EF).

44. S.W. Fordyce to John F. Manier, August 22, 1918, EF.

45. John F. Manier to S.W. Fordyce, November 14, 1918, EF.



particularly irritating to Manier since he realized that the "sidelines" of massage, hairdressing, and mercury rubbing were much more profitable than the baths. In fact, Manier added a department of chiropody in 1916 in the hopes that it, too, would be as profitable as the other sidelines. In 1918, Manier wrote to S.W. Fordyce:

I deem it advisable to foster these Departments [i.e., massage, beauty parlor, etc.], and along that line will recommend and ask permission to secure proper furniture and appliances to enable us to operate a first class department of Chiropody. This can be done for about \$375.00 and I estimate it will pay over 100% on the investment.<sup>46</sup>

Manier purchased additional equipment for all of the sidelines from 1917 to 1921.<sup>47</sup> By July 1918, these purchases had already proved to be a smart investment. Manier reported that 32 percent of the bathhouse's profits came from the sideline departments the previous fiscal year.<sup>48</sup>

To increase the massage facilities, Manier had two partitions installed in the mechanotherapy room, resulting in a total of three massage rooms (rooms 209, 210, and 211) and a smaller (probably quite crowded) room for mechanotherapy (room 208).<sup>49</sup> Manier also enlarged the ladies' massage department in 1918-19. Manier wrote in his report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1919: "Betterments consist of, Building in and equipping with new apparatus an additional massage room on mens side also equipping with new electrical apparatus another massage room on the women's side of bathhouse."<sup>50</sup>

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46. John F. Manier to S.W. Fordyce, July 10, 1918, EF.

47. Documentation of these purchases are numerous. Some examples are Statement and Trial Balance, February 1917, prepared by John F. Manier, Arkansas History Commission; John F. Manier to S.W. Fordyce, December 12, 1917, EF; John F. Manier to S.W. Fordyce, February 8, 1919, EF; and John F. Manier to John R. Fordyce, March 5, 1921, EF.

48. John F. Manier to S.W. Fordyce, July 10, 1918, EF.

49. John F. Manier to John R. Fordyce, July 5, 1918, EF.

50. Fordyce Bath House, Dividends, Year Ending July 30th, 1919, prepared by John F. Manier, EF.

Manier may have converted one or more of the staterooms adjacent to the beauty parlor on the third floor into massage rooms at this time.

Manier suffered a serious setback in March 1919 when the new rules and regulations for bathhouses were released, including several provisions damaging to Manier's sideline profits. Responding to organized agitation, the government raised the masseurs' salary from 60% to 66-2/3% of the gross receipts and required that each bathhouse "supply and furnish, equip and maintain all such departments at its own expense, and pay all operating expenses incidental to same."<sup>51</sup> Manier complained that the cost of maintaining the department would be greater than the bathhouse's receipts from the service. The government also ordered a reduction in the rates for mercury rubbing.<sup>52</sup>

However, the most damaging provision of the new rules required that all electrical treatments must be taken under the direction of a physician.

This puts the electrical feature of the department out of business, [laments Manier. Since] physicians, in general, will not prescribe electricity for their patients any more than a Catholic Priest will recommend the Lutheran Doctrine for Salvation, and in most cases where physicians know anything about electro-therapy they have the apparatus<sup>53</sup> and give these treatments themselves at very advanced rates.

These rules temporarily stalled Manier's attempts to make the Fordyce Bathhouse really profitable. He believed that these rules were:

...the first step [by the government] in a well concocted scheme to dispense with all sidelines in the bath houses. If this is accomplished you will readily see that it will be unprofitable to operate a bath house of the magnitude and

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51. John F. Manier to S.W. Fordyce, March 4, 1919, p. 3, EF.

52. Ibid., p. 4.

53. Ibid., p. 3.

elegance of the Fordyce, with the present schedule of rates for baths; by virtue of the fact that the Fordyce Bath House caters to a high class patronage that can well afford, and does demand these accessories, it will be seen that a great injustice will be done to this institution if derogatory rules and regulations are enacted.<sup>54</sup>

The bathhouses were not saddled with these adverse regulations for very long. By May 1919, the masseurs' wages were reduced to their former level; the rule on electrical treatments was repealed; and finally in April 1920, mercury treatment prices were restored to their previous level.<sup>55</sup> Although the government eventually acquiesced in the demands of the bathhouse managers, this confrontation is symptomatic of the basic differences in the goals and purposes of the government and the bathhouses. These differences ultimately helped put the Fordyce Bathhouse out of business.

In 1922, the Fordyce management scored a major victory. John Fordyce wrote Park Service Director Stephen T. Mather in November 1921, requesting, once again, permission to employ a physical culture director in the gymnasium.<sup>56</sup> Although Superintendent Parks had long opposed this feature, Parks forwarded the request to Mather without recommendation.<sup>57</sup> An intra-Departmental memorandum from B.L. Vipond to Assistant Director Arno Cammerer indicates that for the first time the Park Service accepted competition among the bathhouses.

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54. Ibid., p. 4.

55. John F. Manier to John R. Fordyce, May 13, 1919, EF; John F. Manier to John R. Fordyce, April 3, 1920, EF.

56. John R. Fordyce to Stephen T. Mather, November 22, 1920, National Archives, RG-79.

57. William P. Parks to Director, NPS, November 26, 1920, National Archives, RG-79.

There will be some opposition from the other lessees on the reservation, for the reason that this would apparently give the Fordyce people advantage in a business way, thereby causing increased patronage or an increased proportion of the visitors to bathe at the Fordyce house, or else take exercise in their gymnasium, or hikes over the mountains under the direction of their physical director. From a business standpoint it would seem that the Fordyce people should be given the advantage of their foresight and forwardness in promoting the welfare of their customers. The Fordyce now is by far the best equipped and the best built of any in Hot Springs, and it would appear also to be the best managed. It does not seem fair from this point of view to penalize them for the lack of progress of the other proprietors.<sup>58</sup>

Vipond also dismissed the old argument that bathhouses must restrict their activities to providing therapeutic baths. "It is well known that a great many persons visiting Hot Springs take the baths without any medical direction, and apparently for pleasure only."<sup>59</sup>

With this information in mind, in a letter to Superintendent Parks dated February 11, 1921, Director Mather granted the Fordyce management permission to hire a physical director. Mather stated that "properly supervised physical exercise can be made an excellent accompaniment to the baths, and productive of good results."<sup>60</sup> This decision is one of the first indications of a general relaxation of the strict rules surrounding the operation of the bathhouses. At approximately the same time, the Fordyce management received permission to hold musical concerts in the bathhouse, as long as only "high class" music was played.<sup>61</sup>

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58. B.L. Vipond to Arno Cammerer, December 1, 1920, National Archives, RG-79.

59. Ibid., p. 2

60. Stephen T. Mather to William P. Parks, February 11, 1921, National Archives, RG-79.

61. William P. Parks to John F. Manier, February 4, 1920, HOSP Central Files.



Evidently, the Department of the Interior realized that the entertainment function of the bathhouses could no longer be ignored.

Manier's frequent confrontations with the park superintendents culminated in 1921 when Superintendent Parks suspended Manier for 90 days for selling oil stock to employees and patrons of the Fordyce Bathhouse, as well as in the other bathhouses and elsewhere on the reservation.<sup>62</sup> Manier's actions were in violation of Section 4 of the rules and regulations stating that "renting and selling...articles of merchandise in bathhouse is prohibited."<sup>63</sup> Moreover, Parks complained:

Mr. Manier is the most obstinate manager in any of the bathhouses in regard to obeying rules and orders. He is resentful toward orders from this office, and I thought that the suspension of ninety days, together with the reprimand which I have given him for general disobedience to the service and infraction of the rules would do him good. At the end of that time, if he has not improved, it<sup>64</sup> is my intention to discharge him from the bathhouse service.

John Fordyce (the owner of the bathhouse since S.W. Fordyce died in 1919) wrote to Manier:

Please arrange for Mrs. Manier to assume the position of acting Manager during your vacation.

I would suggest that it might be a matter of profit to you if you would open up an office in the Eldorado fields and sell oil stock.

Hoping ~~that~~<sup>65</sup> you become rich and famous during your ninety days....

To Parks' embarrassment, however, the Director of the National Park Service disapproved Manier's suspension.

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62. William P. Parks to Director, NPS, June 16, 1921, National Archives, RG-79.

63. Quoted in Stephen T. Mather to William P. Parks, June 28, 1921, HOSP Central Files.

64. William P. Parks to Director, NPS, June 16, 1921, p. 2, National Archives, RG-79.

65. John R. Fordyce to John F. Manier, June 16, 1921, HOSP Central Files.

A short time after this oil stock affair, Manier left the Fordyce Bathhouse; by February of 1923 E.W. Polk was manager of the Fordyce. Manier sought greener pastures at the recently rebuilt Lamar Bathhouse, and continued there until his retirement.

### 1923-1933 -- A Search for Another Strong Manager and the Effects of the Depression

The years 1923 to 1933 were unsettled at the Fordyce Bathhouse. After the death of Samuel Fordyce in 1919, John R. Fordyce assumed the responsibility of overseeing the activities at the bathhouse. Unfortunately, John Fordyce was involved in a large number of engineering projects and, unlike his father, had little time left over for supervising the bathhouse. John Fordyce needed another strong, competent manager after Manier left. Sparse documentation points to a rapid turnover in managers, indicating that John Fordyce could not find a manager with the imagination and initiative needed to make the bathhouse profitable.

To make things worse, the depression caused an enormous decline in bathhouse patronage, with receipts declining steadily from approximately \$37,000 in 1929 to a mere \$17,000 in 1933. In an effort to cut expenses, the Fordyce management received permission to reduce the number of tubs in operation from 30 in 1929 to 21 in 1933. The decrease in the number of tubs reduced the amount that the bathhouse had to pay to the government for water rent.

An unfortunate consequence of the decline in business was a deterioration of the physical plant of the bathhouse. With very little money available for general upkeep, the bathhouse fell into disrepair. Thus, the government inspection prior to the Fordyce's lease renewal in 1934 sadly noted that: "It is a shame that a house of this calibre has been allowed to deteriorate as it has. It should be brought back up to stan-

dard. I believe that in full repair it would have an appeal to a class of persons who would appreciate the equipment."<sup>66</sup>

Detailed financial records and reams of correspondence have not come to light for this period, as they have for other years. Existing documentation does reveal that in 1926 John Fordyce requested permission to move the de Soto fountain from the men's bath hall to the lawn in front of the Fordyce Bathhouse.<sup>67</sup> The fact that the statue still sits in the bath hall probably indicates that the request was refused.

In another case, however, the Fordyce Bathhouse won a small victory. Since the opening of the bathhouse, local athletic organizations had been petitioning the Fordyce management and the superintendent for permission to use the Fordyce gymnasium in the evenings. The request had been consistently denied because these professional men and women were not "bona fide" bathers. The provision of a gymnasium to patrons who were not bathers was in violation of the rule that giving baths was the only appropriate purpose of a bathhouse. In a surprising reversal, Park Superintendent Joseph Bolten recommended that the director give his approval for the use of the gymnasiums by the outside (non-bathing) public citing the following reasons:

First, from the health standpoint I believe that men and women should be encouraged to take these gymnasium exercises because of the general, all-round building up that they produce. Second, the bathhouses will derive a certain amount of additional revenue because of the use of the gymnasiums by outside organizations. The rental charge can be arranged by the bathhouses, the organization, and the superintendent's office. Third, Hot Springs is without the use of any gymnasium where the public can obtain these exercises. Fourth, the use of these gymnasiums by the outside public will probably bring a

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66. Memorandum from George C. Bolton to Thomas J. Allen, August 27, 1934, HOSP Central Files.

67. John R. Fordyce to Stephen T. Mather, October 8, 1926, HOSP Central Files.

greater revenue to all bathhouses because the local public will then know what their bathhouses contain, and it may be the means of getting them to take baths in order to use the gymnasium.

Bolten also stipulated that:

The gymnasium will only be used at night by the outside public and will in no way interfere with the registered bathers. Likewise, all the exercises will be under the control<sup>68</sup> of a physical director who must be authorized by this office.

Unfortunately, the director's response to this request remains undiscovered.

Also during this time, a regular bowling league was formed that played in the basement of the Fordyce Bathhouse. The league consisted of the park superintendent, several bathhouse managers (including the Fordyce Bathhouse manager), and a number of local businessmen. Whether this league resulted in a better relationship between the Fordyce management and the superintendent's office is unknown. Complaints made by the owner of the only other bowling alley in Hot Springs apparently remained unresolved.<sup>69</sup>

Responding to the decline in patronage from 1929 to 1933, John Fordyce tried desperately to come up with ideas to revitalize the business or at least protect his financial interests. Beginning in 1929, John Fordyce undertook a study of the medically sanctioned physical hydrotherapy methods used to treat polio, arthritis, and rheumatism in places like Warm Springs, Georgia.

In July 1930, Fordyce requested permission "to install in [the] bathhouse, equipment for the treatment of infantile paralysis, arthritis,

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68. Joseph Bolten to Director, NPS, December 17, 1927, National Archives, RG-79.

69. A. Ackerman to Stephen T. Mather, February 8, 1928, National Archives, RG-79.



and neuritis, and to have the use of this equipment supervised by personnel especially trained for this work, either physician, nurse, or hydro-therapist or mechanical therapist."<sup>70</sup>

John Fordyce wanted the baths at Hot Springs accepted as legitimate medical therapy by the mainstream medical practitioners. Doctors in Hot Springs complained that most non-resident physicians advised "...if you want a bath, go upstairs and take it. Water is water and the baths at Hot Springs are no different from all others -- only the room is hotter."<sup>71</sup>

Along with these efforts, in the early 1930s John Fordyce also investigated the use of rolling wicker chairs on Central Avenue and considered building a solarium on the bathhouse roof.<sup>72</sup> Apparently, he dropped both lines of inquiry. In 1930, however, John Fordyce began his inquiries into the Hubbard Hydrotherapy Tub, which was eventually installed in the bathhouse in 1939.

John Fordyce devised another scheme in 1931 to promote specialization among all the bathhouses by consolidating them under one owner.

I therefore think that the solution of this situation is to have all of the bathhouses owned by one company and to then have certain houses set aside for the treatment of certain diseases. These houses could be equipped in the most modern and approved way. They could also have trained attendants who have specialized in the treatment of the disease which the house is equipped to handle.<sup>73</sup>

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70. John R. Fordyce to Hugh De Valin, July 29, 1930, HOSP Central Files.

71. W.T. Woolton, M.D., to Arno B. Cammerer, March 31, 1931, National Archives, RG-79.

72. John R. Fordyce to Shill Chair Company, May 30, 1930, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville Special Collections, Little Rock, Arkansas (hereafter cited as UASC); John R. Fordyce to Acetol Products Company, Inc., September 17, 1930, UASC.

73. John R. Fordyce to H.M. Albright, December 9, 1931, National Archives, RG-79.

Since the consolidation of the bathhouses would require special legislation and the National Park Service disapproved of the plan, nothing was ever done.

After the construction of the large pool in the basement of the Maurice Bathhouse next door, John Fordyce received permission to build an underground passageway between the two buildings for the convenience of Fordyce Bathhouse patrons taking therapy at the Maurice.<sup>74</sup> This plan was never carried out.

The years 1932 and 1933 were crisis years in the management of the Fordyce Bathhouse. With visitation at an all-time low, bathhouse Manager Elizabeth Gibson barely scraped together the money for the government water rent.<sup>75</sup> Salaries for all employees were cut and the bathhouse continually borrowed money from the Fordyce family to stay in operation. The Fordyce family incorporated the bathhouse in 1932. Half of the shares were pledged to the Arkansas National Bank as collateral for a \$29,000 loan.<sup>76</sup> By January 1933, the bathhouse management was in arrears for more than one year's interest on another note for \$4,000 at the same bank.<sup>77</sup> In March 1933, the president of the Arkansas National Bank took over the management of the bathhouse and appointed Byron Neimeyer to replace Gibson as manager. Superintendent Thomas J. Allen explained the Fordyce Bathhouse's financial situation in a March 14, 1933, letter to the director of the Park Service.

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74. Horace M. Albright to George L. Collins, n.d. (probably October 1931), National Archives, RG-79.

75. Elizabeth M. Gibson to John R. Fordyce, December 30, 1932, HOSP Miscellaneous Files.

76. Thomas J. Allen, Jr., to the Director, NPS, March 14, 1933, HOSP Central Files.

77. Elizabeth M. Gibson to John R. Fordyce, January 12, 1933, HOSP Miscellaneous Files.

For some years past the Fordyce has never been satisfactorily operated, nor has it been a paying proposition; in fact, it has shown an increasingly large deficit. The consensus of opinion is that this is due to very impractical management. There have been numerous managers at the Fordyce; many of them were capable, but were not given the proper opportunity so to operate and handle the house or the house's finances that would result in efficiency.

A year ago, the family ownership of the Fordyce was converted into a stock company. At that time the capital ownership was listed as something over \$239,000. Stock in the new company was issued to the extent of \$150,000, all to the same family, the Fordyces. This change then represented a listed loss of in excess of \$89,000. The issuing of this stock then allowed it to be pledged as collateral for loans. We have at present a record of 750 shares of Fordyce Baths, Inc., stock being pledged to the Arkansas National Bank as security for a note in amount of \$29,000. There are a total of 1500 shares of stock; whether or not the other 750 shares are pledged elsewhere we have no record.

As the condition at the Fordyce Bathhouse showed no signs of improvement, the Directors of the Arkansas National Bank recently decided to protect their interest by taking an active hand in the management of the house. To that end, Mr. Fred Rix, president of the bank, as I understand it, has notified Col. Fordyce that matters of bathhouse management will henceforth be handled by him. On March 1, Mr. Byron Neimeyer of Hot Springs was given the position of manager of the Fordyce Bathhouse, and I believe will operate it on a percentage basis. He has been given full authority to reorganize its operation and to do his best to place it on a paying basis. I understand that Miss Elizabeth Gibson, the former manager, is to have her resignation accepted as of today and that there is a possibility of the assistant manager also being let go for purposes of economy....

In effect, the Fordyce is now under the control of the Arkansas National Bank. Actually, ownership and control is still retained by the Fordyce family....<sup>78</sup>

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78. Thomas J. Allen, Jr., to Director, National Park Service, March 14, 1933, HOSP Central Files.



Moreover, by June 1933, the Fordyce Corporation owed between \$4,000 and \$5,000 in back taxes.<sup>79</sup> The flurry of correspondence between John Fordyce and other members of the family during the second half of 1933 does not indicate if any solution was found. By July 1934, 1,497 out of 1,500 shares of Fordyce Bathhouse stock, together with other stocks, were pledged to the Arkansas National Bank for a loan of \$33,350. The remaining three unpledged shares of stock were held by Lillian P. Fordyce, John R. Fordyce, and Thomas K. Martin.<sup>80</sup>

The years from 1923 to 1933 were difficult years for the Fordyce Bathhouse, which sorely missed the strong leadership provided by Samuel Fordyce and John Manier. Although financial records for this period are spotty, existing records indicate that total bath receipts in 1922 were in excess of \$45,000, while total bath receipts for 1926 were only approximately \$36,500.<sup>81</sup> A large turnover in managers and a lack of aggressive promotion left the Fordyce Bathhouse operation in a vulnerable position when the depression hit. Whether due to more careful management by the bank; a new, more energetic manager in the person of Byron Neimeyer; a general strengthening of the national economy; or some combination of the above, by 1934 the Fordyce Bathhouse was back on its feet financially and looking forward to its most profitable years.

#### 1933-1962--Stabilization, Boom Times, and Decline Under Byron L. Neimeyer

Byron Neimeyer inherited a troubled bathhouse in 1933. Due to its shaky financial situation, the bathhouse had not been properly maintained for

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79. Thomas J. Allen, Jr., to Director, National Park Service, June 30, 1933, HOSP Central Files.

80. Superintendent, HOSP, to the Director, National Park Service, July 16, 1934, National Archives, RG-79.

81. Statement of Business of the Fordyce Bathhouse for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1922, National Archives, RG-79; Annual Report to the National Park Service for the year 1927, UASC.



at least four years and was badly deteriorated. One of Neimeyer's first tasks was cleaning and refurbishing the bathhouse as required by the government before renewing the bathhouse's 20-year lease in 1934. Also in 1934, John Fordyce's collection of Indian relics was installed in cases in the assembly room for the edification of the bathers.

John Fordyce continued his investigations into hydrotherapeutic installations throughout the 1930s. His extensive and ambitious planning culminated in the 1939 installation of a single Hubbard underwater therapy tub in what had been the mercury rubbing room. Unfortunately, because of the outbreak of World War II, trained physical therapists were difficult to find and keep. The Hubbard Tub operated on a regular basis only until 1942, although it may have been available by special request after 1947.<sup>82</sup>

World War II brought great financial prosperity to the Fordyce Bathhouse and to Hot Springs in general. In addition to family and friends coming to Hot Springs to visit patients in the Army and Navy General Hospital, Hot Springs was made a Rehabilitation Center for veterans returning from the war.<sup>83</sup> After World War II, the number of baths given declined drastically for all the bathhouses. The Fordyce Bathhouse never recovered from the slump, and even though many schemes were suggested to rescue the business, the bathhouse closed on July 1, 1962.

In 1934 John Fordyce opened negotiations with the National Park Service concerning the renewal of the Fordyce bathhouse lease. The first action taken by the Park Service was a thorough inspection of the bathhouse

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82. Donald Libbey to Regional Director, Region 3, December 15, 1947, National Archives, RG-79.

83. Scully, p. 344.

conducted in August 1934 by Assistant Superintendent George C. Bolton.<sup>84</sup> Bolton noted that "on account of the financial situation at this house not much maintenance work has been done during the last two years."<sup>85</sup> During the last half of 1934, the bathhouse was repainted and refurbished, so that by January 1935, Superintendent Allen could present the following more optimistic report to the Director and also make recommendations for improvements.

General repairs and painting of all portions of the building that have not received this during the past six months. The building in general is in fairly good maintenance condition and during the last few months the gradual program of painting has been engaged in. This program should be extended to include the entire building and to replace and repair all broken windows, regardless of whether they are on the front or rear elevations. The basement in particular needs considerable repair to the painting and plastering and this should be especially cared for.

All wall clocks throughout the house should be replaced with new ones. We understand that present clocks cannot be repaired.

The rear elevation of the bathhouse has a system of exposed pipes and cold water tanks which present a very objectionable appearance, especially now when our Promenade project is being constructed and will face that elevation of the otherwise attractive building. Some arrangement should be made to either remove this equipment or to hide it in a manner that will match the rest of the building in appearance. This can be done by either removing the tank and the pipes and filling in the resulting space with a matching brick wall or by erecting a false brick wall in front of the equipment. The former procedure is preferred if possible of accomplishment.

Removal of the baffle board cooling tank on the roof of the building. The architecture of this piece of equipment has no relationship to the rest of the building and is decidedly objectionable. It also is in a state of practically complete deterioration and arrangements should be made for cooling water in some other manner, preferably by installation of a

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84. George C. Bolton to Thomas J. Allen, Jr., August 27, 1934, HOSP Central Files.

85. Ibid., p. 2.

modern cooling system with manufactured units similar to that in use in the Army and Navy Hospital. An estimate has already been submitted by this office for the construction of a central system for the entire Bath House Row. Should this project be allowed, then this item in connection with the Fordyce will automatically be taken care of and no action on this item need be taken until approval or disapproval of that federal project is received.

Improvement of the attendants' quarters. These quarters are in poor condition and a great deal could be done to improve them. If it is desired by the company to remove the old bowling alleys from the basement, the space so obtained could be used for attendants' quarters but in this case the practice of using the spring which originates in the bathhouse basement as a display for visitors would have to be discontinued. If it is not desired to use the bowling alleys space for new attendants' quarters, then the existing quarters need a general overhaul and repair and painting.

Ultimately, the granting of the new lease was delayed because of the cooling apparatus erected on the rear wall and roof of the bathhouse. This collection of pipes, tanks, and baffle boards cooled the hot spring water for use in tempering the hot water baths. The Park Service wanted this ugly equipment removed because of its Promenade Project and was also contemplating constructing a central water cooling system for all the bathhouses, making individual cooling towers obsolete.

At the same time, John Fordyce was negotiating a loan for remodeling the bathhouse and installing a complete physiotherapeutic facility. Financial negotiations required that a new 20-year lease be secured before a loan would be granted. Since the Park Service supported the construction of hydrotherapeutic facilities and planned to construct a central water cooling system anyway, the government granted a new lease to the Fordyce Bathhouse in 1936, under one condition.

It is recommended that this Park permit the Fordyce Bath House to continue to use the present cooling system, subject to

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86. Superintendent, HOSP, to the Director, National Park Service, January 22, 1935, National Archives, RG-79.



minor repairs (a fine mesh screen should be installed, new supports placed under the structure, and certain cracks and openings along the walls repaired) and the building of a wall to screen the present rear of the bath house, so as to make a more pleasing appearance from the promenade. Further, it be understood that should the Government discard the idea of building a central cooling tower, the Fordyce Baths, Incorporated, on notice within<sup>87</sup> sixty or ninety days would build an acceptable cooling tower.

In the minutes of a Special Directors' Meeting for Fordyce Baths conducted June 30, 1937, it was reported "that in compliance with a request of the Interior Department, the elevator had been repaired at a cost of \$600.00, the bathhouse redecorated, the rear of the building made more sightly, and a new cooling tower installed on the roof...."<sup>88</sup>

John Fordyce's interest in developing a hydrotherapy department dated back to 1929. By 1935, the National Park Service indicated clearly to him that it was interested in developing a facility for treating cases of polio, arthritis, and rheumatism. In 1935, Allen wrote:

We have for some time been considering the possibility of the installation in this Park of modern facilities for giving underwater therapy and muscle re-education treatments for extreme arthritis, rheumatism, etc., and for treatment of the after effects of infantile paralysis. If a new bathhouse for that purpose can be constructed it would be an ideal action. If a new house cannot be arranged for then the growing demand and need for the treatment will require efforts to secure development of an existing structure to include the desired facilities. I am sure that the need for these facilities<sup>89</sup> exists now under whichever arrangement can be secured.

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87. Superintendent, HOSP, to the Director, National Park Service, October 13, 1936, National Archives, RG-79.

88. Minutes of Special Directors' Meeting, Fordyce Baths, Inc., held June 30, 1937, UASC.

89. Thomas J. Allen, Jr., to John R. Fordyce, July 16, 1935, HOSP Central Files.



Confident of the support of the Park Service, John Fordyce applied to the Reconstruction Finance Corporation and several other organizations for a loan for the proposed installation.<sup>90</sup> His proposed changes, as of July 18, 1935, included the installation of a large glass-covered pool and dressing rooms on the roof; treatment rooms, doctors offices, tubs, pools, and a lounging room on the third floor; and lockers, dressing rooms, and lounge cubicles on the second floor.<sup>91</sup> However, by July 23, 1935, John Fordyce wrote to Byron Neimeyer describing a completely different set of changes.

The third floor will be taken over completely for the new Department. There will be two large pools, 16x28. These will be located in the open areaway, which will be floored over for that purpose.

The gymnasium will be changed to receive five small pools, on the side nearest the mountain. On the side nearest Central Avenue, there will be six Hubbard tubs.

My office and beauty parlor will be treatment rooms.

The present space occupied by the private rooms will be changed to accommodate the dressing room lockers and rest rooms.

There will be ten rest rooms on each side, where people can lie down.

The museum [assembly room] will remain as a lobby for lounging.<sup>92</sup>

In the same letter, John Fordyce explained that he was investigating three government insitutions for financial assistance: the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, the Federal Housing Administration, and the Public Works Administration.<sup>93</sup> He reported the results of these investigations in a letter to Harold L. Ickes, Secretary of the Department of Interior.

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90. John R. Fordyce to Byron Neimeyer, July 17, 1935, UASC.

91. "Improvements in Bathing and Bathhouses in Hot Springs National Park," by John R. Fordyce (written before July 18, 1935), HOSP Central Files.

92. John R. Fordyce to Byron Neimeyer, July 23, 1935, UASC.

93. Ibid.

In order to put this deal through it will be necessary for me to borrow about \$25,000.00. The Reconstruction Finance Corporation reports that because it is more like a hospital than anything else, and because the land is not owned by the Corporation, that they do not believe, under a strict interpretation of their rules, it would be eligible.

The Public Works organization claimed that because the bathhouse was not receiving part of its funds from the County, City or State, and further because it is on government property, that it is not eligible under their rules.

The Federal Housing Administration, while they would guarantee the loan, say that I would have to find an approved cooperating lender, such as a bank or building and loan association. I have not been able to find this.<sup>94</sup>

By December 1935, John Fordyce had considerably scaled down his plans to involve only the installation of a pool for exercise and a series of Hubbard Tubs.<sup>95</sup> Unfortunately, in March 1936, Fordyce reported that the Reconstruction Finance Corporation and Arkansas National Bank would loan him the funds for the improvements only if the bathhouse refused to treat victims of infantile paralysis (polio). The bank felt that if the Fordyce Bathhouse became well known for treating polio, this publicity "would scare off other bathers, would be hurtful to [its] business, and therefore jeopardize [the bank's] collateral."<sup>96</sup> Arno Cammerer's reply from the National Park Service was short and to the point.

I am sorry to see that you could not get the loan on the Bathhouse through the R. F. C. for the reasons you give. I think it would be unwise to authorize the Bathhouse to treat arthritis alone and leave out the polio cases as no contagion is involved and the hot waters of the pool should be available for the handling of both diseases.

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94. John R. Fordyce to Harold J. Ickes, July 31, 1935, HOSP Central Files.

95. John R. Fordyce to Arno B. Cammerer, December 5, 1935, National Archives, RG-79.

96. John R. Fordyce to Arno B. Cammerer, March 18, 1936, National Archives, RG-79.

To exclude polio cases would deprive the Hot Springs waters of one <sup>97</sup>of the greatest advertising properties of the present day.

A December 1, 1936, letter from Park Service Director Cammerer to Superintendent Donald S. Libbey indicates that by that time John Fordyce had again scaled down his plans. His request for the installation of one Hubbard Tub was approved by the director.<sup>98</sup> In March 1937, however, John Fordyce and M.T. Relyea, the owner of the Maurice Bathhouse, proposed building a large, outdoor therapeutic pool to be located immediately in front of the entrance to the Promenade between the Maurice and Fordyce Bathhouses.<sup>99</sup> Only 11 days later, Fordyce wrote the director of the Park Service to propose "the organization of the Hydro-Therapy Bath house with pools and the various sizes and temperatures."<sup>100</sup> There is no indication that either of these suggestions was seriously considered.

The Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works formally denied Fordyce his loan on April 6, 1937.<sup>101</sup> Fordyce gloomily wrote, "This seems to put an end to the possibilities of me borrowing any money to finance the work for the bathhouse."<sup>102</sup>

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97. Arno B. Cammerer to John R. Fordyce, March 24, 1936, National Archives, RG-79.

98. Arno B. Cammerer to Donald S. Libbey, December 1, 1936, HOSP Central Files.

99. M.T. Relyea and John R. Fordyce to Donald S. Libbey, March 1, 1937, National Archives, RG-79.

100. John R. Fordyce to A.B. Cammerer, March 11, 1937, National Archives, RG-79.

101. Horatio B. Hackett to John R. Fordyce, April 6, 1937, HOSP Central Files.

102. John R. Fordyce to D.S. Libbey, April 10, 1937, HOSP Central Files.

Surprisingly, in October 1938, John Fordyce again wrote Superintendent Libbey proposing changes for the bathhouse. Where he was planning to obtain construction money is unknown. This time the plans included the installation of hydrotherapy tubs and a small pool in the basement of the bathhouse, and a larger pool outside between the Fordyce and the Quapaw Bathhouses.<sup>103</sup> By December 1938, however, Fordyce had withdrawn his request to install pools in the basement and had begun installation of a single Hubbard Tub in the former mercury rubbing room on the third floor.<sup>104</sup>

The first bath in the Hubbard Tub was given on March 9, 1939, and the tub operated officially until 1942. By that time, the Fordyce management was unable to find and keep skilled physiotherapists because World War II had siphoned off many qualified medical personnel. The Hubbard Tub was probably available again by special request after 1947, although there is no indication that a trained therapist was on staff after 1942.<sup>105</sup> The war affected the bathhouses in other ways. Perhaps because of increased fuel or labor costs, the Hot Springs laundries raised their rates in 1943. The rate increase prompted Neimeyer to request permission to install a laundry in the basement of the Fordyce.<sup>106</sup> The regional director believed that a cooperative laundry run by the Bathhouse Association (consisting of all the bathhouse managers) was the best way to address the situation.<sup>107</sup>

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103. John R. Fordyce to Donald S. Libbey, October 3, 1938, HOSP Central Files.

104. Memorandum from Acting Superintendent, HOSP, to Director, National Park Service, December 29, 1938, National Archives, RG-79.

105. Donald Libbey to Regional Director, Region 3, December 15, 1947, National Archives, RG-79.

106. Superintendent, HOSP, to Regional Director, Region 3, May 13, 1943, HOSP Central Files.

107. R.R. Tillotson to J.W. Emmert, May 19, 1943, HOSP Central Files.



Correspondence does not indicate whether a cooperative laundry was established. On May 29, 1943, however, the acting director of the Park Service refused Neimeyer's request on the grounds that bathhouses were not allowed to provide themselves with "services as are ordinarily furnished and are readily available in the city of Hot Springs."<sup>108</sup> In later years, many bathhouses (although not the Fordyce) obtained permission to install laundry equipment in their basements.

Toward the end of the war, Hot Springs was selected as a Rehabilitation Center for veterans returning from overseas. Four of the largest hotels in town were taken over in 1944 by the armed forces for use by the returnees.<sup>109</sup> Many of the veterans were allowed to have their spouses and families with them; therefore, the mid-1940s were busy and profitable years for all of the bathhouses. According to Francis J. Scully, "the average stay for each veteran was from ten to fourteen days. More than 2,500 veterans were processed through the Center each month," and the last veterans passed through in 1945.<sup>110</sup> Statistics indicate that these veterans probably returned with their families for vacations in subsequent years, because the Fordyce did more business in 1946 than ever before or since. The lifting of wartime restrictions on traveling and fuel probably also contributed to this large influx of visitors to Hot Springs.

In 1944, Neimeyer tried capitalizing on the large number of servicemen in Hot Springs by offering veterans the use of the Fordyce gymnasium for 50 cents, including a shower, towels, and stateroom privileges. The Bathhouse Association and the park superintendent disliked this suggestion. Apparently concern was voiced over taxing the hot water supply

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108. Acting Director, National Park Service, to Superintendent, HOSP, May 19, 1943, HOSP Central Files.

109. Scully, p. 344.

110. Ibid.

for showers at a time when all of the hot water was needed for baths. The other bathhouses with gyms were not interested in offering the same privilege, and the superintendent believed that the hotels occupied by the veterans had plenty of roof space that could be used for exercise.<sup>111</sup> There is no indication that Neimeyer was allowed to carry out his plan.

During the boom years of World War II a cash reserve fund was established. In a letter to Byron Neimeyer dated February 20, 1941, C. Powell Fordyce (John Fordyce's son) wrote:

In the audit report, Russell Brown & Company suggest that sufficient cash be maintained at all times to retire current debts. In this connection mother suggests that we do not attempt to declare a dividend during this month or in March, but that all surplus cash on hand at the end of this month, which you do not need for operations be deposited in a special bank account in the name of Fordyce Baths, Inc., on which she alone, as president, is authorized to draw; and that in the future 10% of all amounts available for dividends be deposited in this special bank account....

In this way we hope to be able to build up and maintain a cash reserve sufficient to take care of contingencies.<sup>112</sup>

In 1942 Neimeyer submitted a plan for establishing a cash reserve to the Department of the Interior.<sup>113</sup> Whether the cash reserve established in 1942 is simply a government sanctioned version of the reserve proposed in 1941 or an entirely different account is unclear. In either case, the disposition of "the special reserve fund" was a bone of contention between the bathhouse and the Park Service for 20 years. The Fordyce management understood that this special reserve fund was to be "avail-

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111. Superintendent, HOSP, to Regional Director, Region 3, September 7, 1944, National Archives, RG-79.

112. C. Powell Fordyce to Byron Neimeyer, February 20, 1941, p. 2, UASC.

113. Byron L. Neimeyer to P.P. Patraw, February 18, 1942, UASC.

able to keep the Fordyce Bath House in an operating condition satisfactory for the Department of the Interior."<sup>114</sup> The Park Service believed that this fund should be used for "rehabilitation of the plant near the end of the contract."<sup>115</sup> Consequently, when Neimeyer requested permission to expend \$4,000 from the special reserve account for painting, general repairs, furniture, and fixtures for the bathhouse, his request was denied because "the proposed expenditures appear to be for current repair and maintenance."<sup>116</sup> Although the bathhouse management appealed this ruling there is no record that they were ever allowed to use the \$4,000.

By April 1951, the Fordyce Bathhouse had accumulated more than \$25,000 in its special reserve fund. Since bathhouse profits had dropped significantly by this time, the management asked the Park Service for permission to discontinue adding money to this fund, believing that \$25,000 would be sufficient for any repairs required prior to lease renewal in 1954. In August 1951, the acting director of the Park Service amended the reserve fund agreement. Instead of setting aside 10% of cash earnings each year, with a minimum of \$1,000 set aside, the bathhouse would only have to set aside 5%, with a minimum of \$500.<sup>117</sup> In a memo addressed to the regional director, the acting director stated:

It may be presumed since this fund was established in 1942, that this concessioner has made certain rehabilitations or major repairs to the bathhouse. If this is so, we would have

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114. Byron L. Neimeyer to P.P. Patraw, February 18, 1942, UASC.

115. Oliver G. Taylor, Chief of Concessions, NPS, to Regional Director, Region 3, October 21, 1948, UASC.

116. Byron L. Neimeyer to Thomas Boles, September 2, 1948, National Archives, RG-79; Oliver G. Taylor, Chief of Concessions, National Park Service, to Regional Director, Region 3, October 21, 1948, UASC.

117. Ronald F. Lee to B.L. Neimeyer, August 22, 1951, HOSP Central Files.

no objection to the concessioner submitting an application to transfer from the Special Reserve Fund an amount equal to the cost of such projects. However, we should look carefully at any item included in order that we may be justified in approving the transfer.<sup>118</sup>

As a result of this apparent change in policy, Neimeyer prepared an extensive list of repairs and renovations accomplished at the Fordyce Bathhouse between 1942 and 1950. Armed with this information (a copy of which can be found in the appendix of this report), Samuel W. Fordyce, Jr. (oldest son of John Fordyce), personally met with officials of the Park Service in Washington (probably Thomas J. Allen, Jr., former superintendent of Hot Springs, then the new assistant director of the Park Service).<sup>119</sup> Samuel Fordyce, Jr., must have been convincing since the acting director of the Park Service approved the transfer of \$15,000 from the Fordyce's special reserve fund to its regular bank account on June 20, 1952.<sup>120</sup>

The Fordyce management also obtained permission in February 1953 to spend more than \$1,000 from the special reserve fund for the purchase of new lobby furniture.<sup>121</sup>

These deductions left the Fordyce Bathhouse with a balance of slightly more than \$10,000 for repairs required by the Park Service prior to lease renewal in 1954. Superintendent Libbey and Assistant Superintendent George Bolton inspected the bathhouse on August 4, 1954, in the company of Byron Neimeyer. In a letter to Neimeyer dated August 9, 1954 (reproduced in the appendix), Libbey outlined the items in need of

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118. Acting Director, National Park Service, to Regional Director, Region 3, August 22, 1951, HOSP Central Files.

119. Byron L. Neimeyer to Samuel W. Fordyce, Jr., May 15, 1952, UASC.

120. Hilory A. Tolson to Byron L. Neimeyer, June 20, 1952, UASC.

121. Conrad L. Wirth to Byron L. Neimeyer, February 9, 1953, UASC.



rehabilitation. These included removing the bowling alleys, renovating plumbing and vapor cabinets, modernizing attendants' quarters, removing old pumps and machinery from the basement, and overhauling the porch marquee.<sup>122</sup> Neimeyer suggested further improvements consisting of the installation of air conditioning in the dressing rooms and auxiliary heating units in the pack rooms, and possibly the purchase of laundry equipment to go in the basement.<sup>123</sup> However, both C. Powell and Edward Fordyce (fourth son of John Fordyce) felt that "improvements which will save us money, or which will make our bathhouse more attractive to our customers, should be made before improvements...which will primarily benefit only our employees."<sup>124</sup> By December 7, 1954, the improvements requested by the Park Service were accomplished, with the exception of the removal of the machinery from the basement.<sup>125</sup> Nevertheless, Superintendent Libbey approved the rehabilitation, allowed the Fordyce Bathhouse to keep the pumps until it could find purchasers for them, and issued a new contract for 20 years.<sup>126</sup>

Beginning in the late forties and continuing throughout the fifties, the number of baths given in Hot Springs declined. The Fordyce Bathhouse, as the most expensive and elegant bathhouse, suffered the most. Superintendent Raymond Gregg summarized the reasons for this general slump in business:

Decline of bathing volume after 1946 correlates closely with two significant advances in medicine. Widespread availability of antibiotics after World War II has all but dried up vene-

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122. Donald S. Libbey to Byron L. Neimeyer, August 9, 1954, HOSP Central Files.

123. Byron L. Neimeyer to C. Powell Fordyce, September 4, 1954, UASC.

124. C. Powell Fordyce to Byron L. Neimeyer, September 10, 1954, UASC.

125. Byron L. Neimeyer to Donald S. Libbey, December 7, 1954, HOSP Central Files.

126. Donald S. Libbey to Byron L. Neimeyer, December 10, 1954, UASC.

real disease patronage, which was substantial prior to World War II. Development of the ACTH-Cortisone family of drugs revolutionized treatment of arthritic and rheumatic diseases, with heavy attrition to bathhouse patronage. A related adversity here and at spas generally, is the recent widespread availability of hydrotherapy modalities in hospitals and clinics throughout the country.<sup>127</sup>

In an attempt to salvage the Fordyce Bathhouse from bankruptcy, the owners and manager came up with a variety of alternative uses. To combat the chronic shortage of parking, Byron Neimeyer suggested in April 1958 that the gymnasium be converted to parking space.<sup>128</sup> This request was denied by Superintendent Libbey before Neimeyer had a chance to make a formal proposal.<sup>129</sup> In May 1958, Powell Fordyce proposed converting the third floor of the bathhouse to office space to be rented to professionals in Hot Springs.<sup>130</sup> Neimeyer wrote C. Powell on May 19, 1958, of his interview with the superintendent:

I went to see Mr. Libbey Friday and presented the thought of renting office space on the third floor of the bath house to Doctors, lawyers, accountants or someone else. I received the usual reply -- "It would be contrary to the policy of the higher ups in the Dept. of Interior and they would not approve."

I then presented the fact that I thought the Dept. of Interior had some responsibility in the decline in income from the baths and they just shouldn't say no to everything and really should be concerned and attentive to any suggested solution -- I suggested maybe a Federal agency...as a possible renter -- This received the same reply.<sup>131</sup>

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127. Superintendent, HOSP, to Regional Director, Region 1, June 4, 1962, HOSP Central Files.

128. C. Powell Fordyce to Byron L. Neimeyer, April 16, 1958, UASC.

129. Byron L. Neimeyer to C. Powell Fordyce, April 21, 1958, UASC.

130. C. Powell Fordyce to Byron L. Neimeyer, May 14, 1958, UASC.

131. Byron Neimeyer to C. Powell Fordyce, May 19, 1958, UASC.

Unable to see any other solution to the problem, the owners listed the bathhouse for sale in August 1958.<sup>132</sup>

By 1960, the Fordyce Bathhouse was still not sold. C. Powell Fordyce suggested installing bowling alleys in the gymnasium hoping to lure people in to bowl and sell them bath tickets at the same time.<sup>133</sup> Nothing came of this proposal.

In February 1961, Superintendent Gregg proposed that the Park Service acquire the Fordyce Bathhouse for use as a visitor center.<sup>134</sup> This proposal conflicted with the proposal to build a new visitor center on Arlington Lawn that was approved by the director on June 27, 1958.<sup>135</sup> A preliminary study conducted in March 1961 by the regional architect indicated that the regional office staff felt that the amount of space requested by the park for a visitor center was excessive. The regional architect stated that "while it is true the Fordyce Bathhouse can be acquired, remodeled and equipped for the same cost as a new and much smaller building, it is also true that it cannot be maintained and operated for the same amount of money."<sup>136</sup> The study recommended that a smaller visitor center be built on Arlington Lawn as previously approved.<sup>137</sup> When Regional Director Elbert Cox approved the recommendations of this study in April, he also mentioned that funds were unavail-

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132. C. Powell Fordyce to Byron L. Neimeyer, August 8, 1958, UASC.

133. C. Powell Fordyce to Byron L. Neimeyer, February 3, 1960, UASC.

134. Superintendent, HOSP, to Regional Director, Region 1, February 2, 1961, cited in "Background Summary," part of memorandum from Coordinator, ad hoc committee for Fordyce Bathhouse Study to Assistant Director, National Park Service, May 28, 1962, HOSP Central Files.

135. Memorandum from Regional Architect to Regional Director, March 15, 1961, p. 1, HOSP Central Files.

136. Ibid.

137. Ibid., p. 2.

able for the acquisition of the bathhouse.<sup>138</sup> In October, Mrs. Downs Fordyce, part owner of the bathhouse, began a letter writing campaign to Arkansas Senators John L. McClellan and William Fulbright. Mrs. Fordyce suggested that the central location of the Fordyce Bathhouse would be an asset to a visitor center and that the excess of space would be useful if the visitor center's needs expanded in the future. Mrs. Fordyce asked the Senators' help in gaining permission from the Park Service to convert the bathhouse into some other, more profitable business should the plan for the visitor center fail.<sup>139</sup>

A formal feasibility study was conducted in February 1962 to determine whether the Fordyce should be acquired and remodeled into a visitors' center. The team came up with a rock bottom conversion cost of \$190,000 for remodeling of the basement, first, and second floors.<sup>140</sup> Team member J.W. Roth, the architect representing the Eastern Office of Design and Construction, listed the pros and cons of conversion in his trip report. As liabilities, he listed the problem of maintaining such a large space, the inconvenience of using a space not designed as a visitor center, and the lack of individuality that would set the building apart from the other bathhouses. Assets included the availability of extra space for expansion and the building's sound structure, good location, and possible use as an "exhibit-in-place."<sup>141</sup> All things considered, in Roth's opinion "an ideal solution would be to level both the Fordyce and the Maurice bathhouses.... Then, a light and airy, modern, semi-pavilion visitor center could be erected at the perfect

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138. Memorandum from Regional Director, Region 1, to Superintendent, HOSP, April 3, 1961, HOSP Central Files.

139. Downs Lander Fordyce to John L. McClellan, October 4, 1961, HOSP Central Files.

140. Memorandum from Chief, EODC, to Assistant Director, Design and Construction, February 23, 1962, HOSP Central Files.

141. "Excerpts from Architect Roth's Trip Report Concerning Fordyce Bathhouse Study," pp. 1-2, HOSP Central Files.



site."<sup>142</sup> Edward Aschmann, the regional architect, estimated \$275,000 for conversion of the bathhouse and stated that if an additional \$100,000 were required for the bathhouse purchase, the project would be uneconomical. Aschmann, therefore, concurred with Roth's suggestion.<sup>143</sup>

Superintendent Gregg was both "amazed and disappointed" at the high estimated costs of conversion. He believed that "the indirect advantages to the Service and welfare of the whole concession operation in this Park by removing the Fordyce Bathhouse from the bathing business fully support extraordinary considerations in this instance."<sup>144</sup> Despite the superintendent's strong support of the Fordyce conversion, Robert G. Hall, chief of the Eastern Office, (Division of) Design and Construction, still favored construction of a new visitor center on Arlington Lawn.<sup>145</sup> On May 1, 1962, Chief of Operations and Maintenance Edwin C. Kenner recommended that the Fordyce Bathhouse be acquired and converted to a visitor's center.<sup>146</sup> All levels of the Park Service clearly disagreed over the visitor center issue.

In a May 18, 1962, letter to C. Powell Fordyce, Superintendent Gregg tried to explain his personal feelings and the position of the Park Service.

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142. Ibid., p. 4.

143. Memorandum from Regional Architect to Regional Director, Region 1, March 29, 1962, HOSP Central Files.

144. Memorandum from Superintendent, HOSP, to Regional Director, Region 1, April 10, 1962, HOSP Central Files.

145. Memorandum from Chief, EODC, to Assistant Director, Design and Construction, April 12, 1962, HOSP Central Files.

146. Edwin C. Kenner, Chief of Operations and Maintenance, Position Summary, May 1, 1962, HOSP Central Files.

As you know, I have advocated acquisition and redevelopment of the Fordyce Bathhouse as a Visitor Center. Throughout my tenure in this office I have been keenly aware of the problems the Fordyce family faces in trying to make this a profitable, or even solvent operation. Removal of the Fordyce would tend to stabilize current supply and demand in the bathing industry. Also, with tight management and exercise of utmost efficiencies, effective modernization and aggressive promotion might well restore the volume of bathing to a point that all present houses could become profitable.

The position of the Director of the National Park Service on the matter has not been given, but it seems apparent from the findings of our architects that cost of conversion would absorb the entire planned cost of a Visitor Center, leaving no margin for acquisition cost. Since a Visitor Center could be provided on another site within the planned capital amount, it seems unlikely the Service<sup>147</sup> will further consider acquiring the Fordyce for this purpose.

With the possibility of converting the bathhouse seeming unlikely, Superintendent Gregg made a number of suggestions, including conversion of the bathhouse to a hydrotherapy-physical medicine research center or purchase by a large company or union for use by its employees or members.<sup>148</sup> Gregg also felt that with "economies of space use and efficiencies of management," the bathhouse could still be a profitable business. Gregg complained of "the deterioration of housekeeping and courteous efficient service; apparently the products of both material and supervisory neglect born of discouragement at the management level."<sup>149</sup> Evidently, the superintendent still hoped an enthusiastic purchaser might invest enough capital into the bathhouse to make it profitable once again.

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147. H. Raymond Gregg to C. Powell Fordyce, May 18, 1962, p. 1, HOSP Central Files.

148. Ibid., p. 2.

149. Ibid., p. 3.

In a letter dated May 29, 1962, C. Powell Fordyce requested permission to suspend operation of the Fordyce Bathhouse from either May 31 or June 30, 1962, through December 31, 1962, and to be relieved of the obligation to pay water rent for that period.<sup>150</sup> Powell Fordyce stated that in spite of the steady increase in tourists to the area an inexorable decline in the number of baths given in Hot Springs from 1956 to 1962 had occurred.<sup>151</sup> He also mentioned ongoing negotiations with Mountain Valley Water Company, a local bottler and retailer of the Hot Springs mineral water, and hoped the negotiations would result in the purchase of the bathhouse.<sup>152</sup> Mountain Valley proposed operating the first and second floor as a bathhouse and conducting various business operations connected with the marketing of Mountain Valley Water on the third floor. Superintendent Gregg recommended that the regional director approve C. Powell Fordyce's request.<sup>153</sup> Gregg's memorandum discussed the reasons for the decline in bathing and the failure of the Fordyce Bathhouse. He noted the fact that "a major instrument of free enterprise is meeting fluctuations in supply and demand" and that the Park Service has refused the bathhouses this flexibility.<sup>154</sup> He also mentioned that prior to World War II most tourists came to Hot Springs by common carrier, but since the use of the automobile and the relocation of the Hot Springs-Benton Highway, tourist traffic had been funneled away from the bathhouses. The acute parking problem seriously damaged the business of all the bathhouses, but particularly those farthest away from the parking that was available. Finally, the setting of a bath

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150. C. Powell Fordyce to H. Raymond Gregg, May 29, 1962, p. 1, HOSP Central Files.

151. Ibid., p. 2.

152. Ibid., p. 4.

153. Memorandum from Superintendent, HOSP, to Regional Director, Region 1, June 4, 1962, p. 8, HOSP Central Files.

154. Ibid., p. 1.

rate for the Fordyce significantly higher than the other bathhouses virtually assured that the Fordyce would be the first to close.<sup>155</sup> In closing, the superintendent summarized these possible solutions to the problem: 1) convert the building to a visitor center; 2) sell to Mountain Valley Water Company; 3) use excess space for other business uses; 4) convert the site to a parking facility; 5) continue using the building as a bathhouse under a new owner; and 6) merge all of the bathhouses to effect economies of scale and operation.<sup>156</sup>

By the middle of June 1962, both the superintendent and the regional director had written their comments to the director of the Park Service. The regional director was "unable to reach the conclusion that the proposal to convert the Fordyce Bathhouse for use as a Visitor Center is a good plan for the National Park Service. [The regional director's] recommendation is that it continue to be used for its basic purpose if this can be done; if not, the building should be razed and the site restored to supplement the adjoining strip of Park land which features the hot springs."<sup>157</sup> The superintendent concluded that "if a decision to acquire the Fordyce now and redevelop it as a visitor center cannot be made now, [he] would like to appeal for a deferral of final negative decision pending a new look at the costs of a less pretentious approach to alteration."<sup>158</sup>

While the Park Service debated these issues, the Fordyce family went deeper into debt. Downs Fordyce summed up the family's feeling of frustrations in another letter to Senator Fulbright:

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155. Ibid., pp. 1-6.

156. Ibid., pp. 7-8.

157. Memorandum from Regional Director, Region 1, to Director, National Park Service, June 13, 1962, p. 3, HOSP Central Files.

158. Memorandum from Superintendent, HOSP, to Director, National Park Service, June 15, 1962, p. 4, HOSP Central Files.



We cannot sell our Bath House with the general outlook for the type business now permitted and with the regulations that prevent attracting new and younger people. We cannot sell our building to someone who could use the place for another type of business, however dignified. The Park will not use it for a center and prefers to build another structure. What are we to do?<sup>159</sup>

Cutting their losses, the Fordyce family suspended operations at the Fordyce Bathhouse effective July 1, 1962. The bathhouse never reopened.

The postscript to this story came in December 1962. A letter from the director of the Park Service to C. Powell Fordyce sums up the Park Service's final position:

As you know, the National Park Service has had under consideration for some time the possibility of acquiring the Fordyce Bathhouse and converting it into a visitor center.

As a result of studies conducted by the Service, it has been determined that because of economic considerations and other pertinent factors, the proposal is not practical and we must advise you that the National Park Service will not acquire the Fordyce Bathhouse for conversion into a visitor center.

Careful consideration has also been given to your request that you be permitted to assign your contract to the Mountain Valley Water Company, with the understanding that the company would be allowed to use excess space in the building for office and business functions of the company other than those indigenous with the bathhouse operation. Since this proposal would introduce into the park business functions foreign to the purposes for which the park was established, we are unable to give it favorable consideration.

We are indeed sorry that our reply cannot be more encouraging, but hope you will be successful in locating a buyer for the bathhouse or in making<sup>160</sup> other arrangements mutually satisfactory to all concerned.

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159. Downs Lander Fordyce to William Fulbright, May 27, 1962, pp. 4-5, HOSP Central Files.

160. Conrad L. Wirth to C. Powell Fordyce, December 10, 1962, HOSP Central Files.

The Fordyce Bathhouse concession contract did not terminate until 1974. In 1976 the U.S. Government took possession of the bathhouse and sent the Fordyce heirs a check for the depreciated book value of their "possessionary interests." Disagreeing with the amount of compensation, the Fordyce heirs filed suit against the U.S. Government, claiming that the government owed them the "sound value" rather than the "book value" of the bathhouse. In 1981 the court decided in favor of the Fordyces and rendered a judgment in 1985.

Rehabilitation of the Fordyce Bathhouse began in 1980 with the repair of the stained glass. The Fordyce Bathhouse is scheduled to open as Hot Springs National Park's Visitor Center in 1988.

#### Chronology of Events at the Fordyce Bathhouse

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 1914-1915 | Fordyce Bathhouse constructed.   |
| 1915      | Outdoor floodlights installed.<br>Cooling tower installed in May.<br>Refrigerating machine installed providing cold water for drinking and various hydrotherapy procedures.<br>Ford car purchased for bathhouse use.<br>Twenty-five thousand souvenir books containing interior photographs from Woodward and Tiernan for advertising ordered. |
| 1916      | Large crack developed in the ceiling of men's bath hall and in the floor of the electromechano room.<br>New equipment purchased for the beauty parlor.   |
| 1917      | Flyscreens installed on the windows of ladies' bath hall and on three basement windows.<br>Another massage table and extra furniture for the beauty parlor purchased.  |
| 1918      | Entire bathhouse painted for \$4,373.40.<br>Electric fan purchased for \$18.50.<br>New furniture and equipment for the department of chiropody purchased.  |

- 1919 Both the men's and women's sides equipped with built-in additional massage rooms containing new electrical apparatus.
- 1920 New electric fan purchased for \$34.50.  
Dressing booth clothes locks purchased.  
New gym equipment purchased for \$250.02.  
Permission granted to furnish music and concerts of classic or "high grade" music; jazz music was restricted.
- 1921 Permission granted to employ an instructor for physical culture classes in the gym.  
Additional electrical apparatus and furniture for massage and mercury departments may have been purchased.
- 1922 New marble for cabinet vapors installed.
- 1925 Porch furniture painted.
- 1932 \$25.00 spent for cabinet work.  
Number of tubs reduced from 30 to 25.
- 1933 Number of tubs reduced from 25 to 21.
- 1934 New 20-year lease negotiated.  
Cabinets built for the display of Indian relics for \$200.00.  
Beauty shop equipment purchased.  
By this year the beauty parlor was relocated to the former music room, and John R. Fordyce's office replaced the billiard room.
- 1935 Number of tubs increased from 21 to 22.
- 1936 More than \$4,000 spent on painting and repairing.  
Clocks purchased from MK Electric for \$190.35.  
Equipment for beauty shop and chiropody department purchased.  
Number of tubs increased from 22 to 24.  
Permission granted to install one Hubbard Tub.

- 1938 Twenty lobby chairs reupholstered in 1938-1939.
- 1939 Hubbard Tub constructed.  
First Hubbard Tub bath given on March 9.
- 1940 New circulating ice water system installed.
- 1941 Adding machine purchased.  
Beauty parlor fixtures purchased for \$201.45.  
Number of tubs increased from 26 to 30.
- 1942 Hubbard Tub operation officially suspended.
- 1944 Bathhouse re-roofed in 1944-1945.  
Slip covers purchased and leather covers on furniture  
replaced for \$143.64.  
Beauty shop reopened.
- 1945 Clocks purchased and repaired for \$121.25.
- 1946 Additional lounge furniture purchased and cooling rooms  
repaired for \$704.21.  
New sitz baths installed.
- 1947 Outside of building cleaned and brick and terra-cotta re-  
pointed.  
Hubbard Tub reopened on a limited, special request basis.
- 1948 Interoffice communication system purchased.  
Hair dryer and rubber-tired truck purchased.
- 1949 Some furniture re-covered for \$200.00.  
Two fans purchased for \$75.00.  
Vapor cabinet repaired for \$132.25
- 1950 Mattress repairs made for \$24.62.  
Twenty-four electric clocks purchased for \$100.37.  
Whirlpool bath sold for \$200.00.



1952 New lobby furniture purchased and repairs made for  
\$1,790.18.  
Ten lobby chairs painted and reupholstered.

1954 New 20-year lease negotiated.

1955 Porch furniture purchased for \$189.81.

1956 Thirty-gallon hot water heater purchased.  
Chaise longue purchased for \$35.00.

1958 Television purchased for \$235.00.  
Bathhouse offered for sale.

1959 Outside floodlights and new 50-gallon water cooler  
installed.

1961 22" power mower purchased.

1962 Park Service investigated turning the Fordyce Bathhouse into  
a visitor center.  
Permission granted to suspend operation of bathhouse.  
Fordyce Bathhouse closed on July 1.  
NPS refused to acquire bathhouse for use as a visitor  
center.  
NPS refused to allow the sale of the Fordyce Bathhouse to  
Mountain Valley Water.

1965 Three or four wicker chairs given to Ray Smith, Jr.  
Blue jars or vases on porch given to the Neimeyers.

1967 Some bathhouse lockers, chairs, tables, and beds sold for  
\$205.00.

1971 Some gym equipment and some metal furniture donated to the  
Boys' Club.

1973 Six steel cots sold.

1976 NPS acquired bathhouse.



## SPA THERAPY

### The Bathing Regime

Patrons of the Fordyce Bathhouse were cared for from the tops of their heads to the tips of their toes. A person could easily spend the entire day at the bathhouse, taking various treatments, working out in the gym, and enjoying conversation or a game of cards in the assembly room. The atmosphere resembled that of a social club where the members (the patrons) mixed within their social class and enjoyed reading, writing letters, listening to music, and engaging in cards or billiards after completing their baths and therapy.

Many patrons took their baths according to their doctor's prescription. Doctors in Hot Springs regularly treated out of town visitors, diagnosing their ailments and prescribing baths of various temperatures and durations as well as a variety of other therapies. These physicians were registered by Hot Springs National Park to assure their competency. However, most treatments were also available without a prescription, although the water temperature and length of treatment were more conservative in these cases. Patrons who had seen a doctor would present their prescriptions to be followed by the bath attendants; other patrons could, within limits, pick and choose their therapies.

In either case, the first stop for patrons after chatting with friends on the porch was the clerk's desk in the lobby. Here patrons bought their bath and massage tickets and left valuables safely stored in individual lockboxes located behind the clerk's desk. If necessary, patrons deposited their coat, umbrella, and hat at the checkroom, then proceeded to the second floor by either the stairs or the elevator. The women's facilities were generally on the right or south side, with men's facilities on the left or north side. In the hallway on the second floor were lockers for towels and bathrobes. These lockers were used by patrons who had bought a book of bath tickets, often for a series of 21 baths. After obtaining their towel and bathrobe, the patrons proceeded

to the dressing room, disrobed, and hung their clothing on the locking clothes hooks in the dressing booths. Patrons without robes were wrapped toga-fashion in a sheet by an attendant.

Going back downstairs, patrons went to the bath hall and were assisted into a tub by an attendant. The tub bath, lasting approximately 20 minutes, had a water temperature of 98-100°F. While in the tub, the attendant provided patrons with cups of hot spring water. Drinking the hot water fulfilled a twofold purpose. Patrons "bathed" his or her internal organs, and the water helped replenish the fluids lost by the body through perspiration during the hot tub bath. Toward the end of the bath, the attendant returned and scrubbed patrons with liquid soap either by hand or with a bath mitt, if the patron had brought one.

After the tub bath, patrons continued following their prescription of therapy. If the patron had not seen a doctor, most therapies were available without prescription anyway. Some patrons might go straight to the pack room and cooling room and then leave. Most patrons probably underwent some form of therapy or made use of some of the services provided by the bathhouse. Therefore, the following description of therapies and services is not intended to represent the fixed routine experienced by every patron. Patrons without prescriptions could, within reason, freely choose the number and order of their activities. A complete explanation of each type of therapy mentioned here can be found in the glossary at the end of the chapter.

One commonly used therapy was the vapor cabinet. In 1915 vapor cabinets were located in the bath halls, with head-out vapors, or steam cabinets, located in the steam room. A steam cabinet was located in the women's bath hall, but whether this is an original installation or a later addition is unclear. Another common therapy, particularly for women, was the sitz bath. Originally one sitz bath was located in the hydro-therapy room, but more were installed later.



While in the hydrotherapy room, patrons might indulge in a hydroelectric bath, a Nauheim bath, a salt glow treatment, or any number of douches and sprays, both internal and external. Patrons could be warmed in an electric light or sunray cabinet or cooled in a frigid cabinet. Male patrons might stop next in the Turkish hot room (accessible only from the men's side of the bathhouse), where radiators raised the temperature to 140°F. In the men's and ladies' pack rooms, patrons received wet, hot packs as prescribed by their physicians. Hot packs were also available to patrons not under a doctor's care and, in either case, were usually followed by a cooling needle shower. The design of cooling rooms on the first and second floors allowed the body temperature to slowly return to normal, encouraged the pores of the skin to close, and provided patrons a chance to relax and recuperate from all the therapy.

Once on the second floor, a new array of services was available. Massage, both by hand and with electrical devices, was available in the massage room for men adjoining the men's dressing room and the one for ladies adjoining the beauty parlor on the third floor. In the mechanotherapy room on the second floor, patrons could use the Zander gymnastic machines, the rowing and horseback machines, or the stationary bicycle. He or she could also "bake" in the electric oven or receive electrical therapy from the static machine or the electric oscillators and vibrators. The chiropodist, also located on the second floor, could attend to any foot problem patrons might have.

The men's and women's courtyards could be reached from the second floor dressing rooms. These courtyards were private and screened from each other. All of the windows overlooking the courtyards were glazed with translucent glass; therefore, these areas were available for nude sunbathing.

Patrons who found the dressing booths too confining rented staterooms located on the third floor. The staterooms were provided with a dresser, chair, coat rack, and a bed for the nap recommended by most doctors after a bath and therapy.

The gymnasium on the third floor was furnished with the usual equipment: parallel bars, a horizontal bar, punching bags, a striking dummy, medicine ball, springboard, pulley weights, traveling rings, ropes and a rope ladder, trapezes, Indian clubs, a slant board, a climbing rack, turning poles, and a scale. Wrist and hand exercisers provided therapy for rheumatic joints. Also available were mats for gymnastics and boxing matches.

The mercury rubbing room provided special therapy for patrons afflicted with venereal disease. In 1939, a Hubbard Tub was installed in this room providing underwater reeducation of muscles for victims of polio or arthritis.

Hairdressing and manicuring services were available to women on the third floor. After returning to the stateroom or changing clothes in the dressing room, patrons could gather in the third floor assembly room where tables for writing and chairs for reading and conversing were provided. The ladies' parlor at the south end held a concert grand piano used in music recitals and concerts. The gentlemen's parlor at the other end sported a billiard table for the men's amusement. Both parlors were supplied with hot and cold drinking water and fireplaces were used on rare chilly days. In the 1930s, John Fordyce's collection of Indian relics was installed in the assembly room for the edification of the patrons.

Finally, the roof garden provided a gathering place for chatting in the sunshine and fresh air. Occasionally, bands performed in the pavilion on the hillside at the rear of the bathhouse (the pavilion was removed in the 1930s), and patrons could enjoy the music while relaxing on the roof.

Without a doubt, the Fordyce Bathhouse was a complete institution. Perhaps this is why so many people returned to Hot Springs year after year. Even if the Fordyce management could not legitimately boast of

the magical powers of the Hot Springs water, the relaxation and pampering enjoyed by Fordyce patrons soothed their bodies and rested their minds.

### Glossary of Therapies and Devices

Medical textbooks written from 1900 to 1935 supplied the information presented in this section. Although medical research has since substantiated some of the claims, these treatments are historically interesting rather than medically useful.

Dry and Hot Bake: A dry and hot bake consisted of intense heat administered in a cabinet designed to allow the patient's head to protude (figure 125). This therapy was nearly identical in form and purpose to the Turkish bath or hot room except that the temperature of a cabinet bake could be as great as 200° because the patient's head was not exposed to heat.

The dry and hot bake was used to treat sprains and bruises as well as the same complaints that were treated in the hot room.<sup>1</sup>

Electric Light Bath: The general electric light bath was administered in an electric light bath cabinet, also called a sunray cabinet (figure 126) and was designed as a substitute for the natural sunbath. The light source was the arc or incandescent light, although the latter was more common. The length of time spent in the cabinet depended on the ailment being treated and varied from 3 to 40 minutes.<sup>2</sup> The electric light bath was always followed by some kind of cooling therapy, such as a cool needle shower, douche, or bath.

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1. "Department of Electricity and Massage, Palace Bath House, Hot Springs, Arkansas." Promotional literature published c.1909, National Archives, RG-79.

2. B. Buxbaum, "Special Hydrotherapy," in Hydrotherapy, Thermotherapy, Heliotherapy, and Phototherapy and Balneology and Crounotherapy by Wilhelm Winternitz and E. Heinrich Kisch, A System of Physiologic Therapeutics, vol. IX, ed. Solomon Solis Cohen (Philadelphia: P. Blakiston's Son & Co., 1902), p. 234.

The main effect of the light bath was to produce heat in the skin and tissues without overheating the air around the patient, enabling the patient to comfortably tolerate a higher degree of heat, which helped to reduce pain and relieve muscle spasms.<sup>3</sup> The light bath increased the blood circulation in the skin, which in turn reduced congestion and swelling in various internal organs. Repeated use of this therapy was believed to help restore normal blood circulation and functioning of internal organs.<sup>4</sup> The increased perspiration induced by the light bath supposedly "washed" unhealthy materials out of the tissues and was used in treating the metallic poisoning that accompanied the mercury treatment for syphilis.<sup>5</sup> The light bath was considered effective in reducing pain and swelling in rheumatic joints, and in treating diabetes, obesity, kidney disease, sciatica, and syphilis. A short (three- to five-minute) treatment in the light bath was used as a tonic and as an appetite stimulant.<sup>6</sup>

Electric light was applied locally by means of a photophore, essentially one or more light bulbs with a metal cover (figure 127). Photophores were particularly useful when applying heat to the spine, abdomen, and joints, because a much greater heat could be tolerated by the patient than in a general light bath.<sup>7</sup>

Electrotherapy: Electrotherapy was applied locally using the faradic, galvanic, or sinusoidal current (figure 128). The current was directed onto particular parts of the body through the use of specially shaped electrodes (figure 129).

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3. J.H. Kellogg, Light Therapeutics (Battle Creek, Mich.: The Good Health Publishing Co., 1910), p. 42.

4. Ibid., p. 52.

5. Buxbaum, p. 239.

6. Ibid., p. 238-239.

7. Kellogg, Light Therapeutics, p. 55.



The galvanic current resulted in distinct reactions at each electrode. The positive electrode helped relax spasmodic muscles and coagulate blood. When using a low current, the negative electrode stimulated muscles and caused increased circulation. The negative pole could also be used to destroy abnormal growths if a strong current was employed.<sup>8</sup> The faradic current produced muscle contractions and, therefore, was thought to improve general nutrition. The sinusoidal current also produced muscle contractions, and since it did not cause the discomfort often accompanying the faradic current, was usually the preferred treatment.

Static electricity was produced by a static machine (figure 130) and could be administered in several ways. The static spark caused muscular and tissue contraction reducing pain and decreasing fluids in swollen areas. Brush discharges restored stagnant circulation and relieved pressure and pain. The spray or breeze was soothing and relieved pain, and other forms of static therapy were believed to increase metabolism.<sup>9</sup>

Frigid Cabinet: The method of use and the purpose of this device has not yet been determined.

Gymnasium Equipment: Much of the gymnastic equipment (figures 59-60) used in the Fordyce Bathhouse is familiar today: a rope ladder, hanging rings, climbing ropes, a trapeze, a horizontal bar, parallel bars, punching bags, a medicine ball, a spring board, a vaulting horse, and a striking dummy. Weights on pulleys attached to the wall strengthened arm and chest muscles. The slant board was used in connection with the pulley weights. Wrist exercisers were available for reeducation of the

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8. Charles S. Potts, Electricity, Its Medical and Surgical Applications, Including Radiotherapy and Phototherapy (Philadelphia and New York: Lea and Febinger, 1911), p. 138.

9. Ibid., p. 139.

wrist and hand muscles. Less familiar equipment included the traveling rings, a set of six rings suspended by ropes from the ceiling. Traveling the length of the gym without touching the floor was possible by swinging from ring to ring. Indian clubs, resembling bowling pins in shape, were grasped by the neck and swung individually or tossed to other people. The movements and the additional weight of the clubs strengthened muscles and increased manual dexterity. The turning pole was a 15- to 20-foot long pole, approximately 3" in diameter, set up at a 45° angle. Special pins at either end of the pole allowed it to turn freely in sockets. A variety of climbing exercises were performed on this pole (figure 131).<sup>10</sup> The stall bar (shown in figure 59) provided support at a variety of heights for corrective and strengthening exercises. The giant stride was a complicated mechanism consisting of "a pole, with a swivel at the summit, to which several ropes of equal length are attached, with small cross-sticks at their extremities" (see figure 132). By grasping the sticks at the ends of the ropes and running around the pole very fast, the participants would eventually swing around the pole only infrequently touching the ground with their feet, hence the name "giant stride."<sup>11</sup>

Hot Room or Turkish Bath: In the Fordyce Bathhouse, the hot room was heated by radiators to a temperature of 140°F. Patients customarily drank several glasses of water both before and during their stay in the hot room. Treatment in the hot room produced profuse perspiration and was normally followed by some kind of cold bath or shower.<sup>12</sup>

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10. Archibald Maclaren, A System of Physical Education (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1869), p. 436.

11. Aaron A. Warford, How to Become an Athlete (New York: Frank Tousey, Publisher, 1882), p. 54.

12. J.H. Kellogg, Rational Hydrotherapy (Philadelphia: F.A. Davis Company, Publishers, 1910), p. 687.

The hot room was used to treat cases of rheumatism, toxemia, obesity, and some forms of kidney disease, as well as sciatica and lumbago.<sup>13</sup> Increased perspiration was believed by some to "wash" toxic material out of the body and to increase metabolism.<sup>14</sup>

Hubbard Tub: The Hubbard Tub represents a link between the traditional use of the hot springs water as a cure-all and modern applications of physical therapy. A patient reclined on a plinth attached to one end of the keyhole-shaped tub (figures 63-71), within easy reach of bars to hold onto for stability during the treatment. Non-ambulatory patients were transported to the room and lowered into the tub by an overhead stretcher on a tram. The physiotherapist normally sat in the tub with the patient and manipulated the arm or leg joints. The buoyancy and warmth of the water enabled the patient to move joints and exercise muscles impossible to use elsewhere. Metal banisters running the length of the tub also allowed the semi-ambulatory patient to practice walking with the support of the water and his or her own arms.

This therapy was recommended in cases of polio, arthritis, rheumatism, paralysis, and other ailments producing pain or stiffness in the joints or weak muscles. Similar forms of hydrotherapy are practiced today, especially for the treatment of athletic injuries.

Hydroelectric Bath: The hydroelectric bath applied a small electrical current to the entire body by means of a stationary head plate and sliding metal electrodes hooked over the side of a porcelain tub filled

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13. Ibid., p. 691.

14. George Knapp Abbott, Principles and Practice of Hydrotherapy for Students and Practitioners of Medicine (Loma Linda, California: The College Press, 1914), p. 448.

with warm water (figure 133). The warm water, ranging in temperature from 92° to 98°F, combined with the type of current applied determined the effect of the bath.<sup>15</sup>

Three types of current were used: faradic, galvanic, and sinusoidal. The faradic current produced a distinct tingling in the body, and was used as a stimulant or tonic, especially for patients suffering from paralysis.<sup>16</sup> The galvanic current applied for 12 to 15 minutes had the effect of a sedative and was useful for treating cases of insomnia or nervous irritability.<sup>17</sup> The sinusoidal current caused all of the muscles in the body to contract vigorously without discomfort to the patient.<sup>18</sup> The slow sinusoidal current administered for five to six minutes was used as a tonic; the rapid sinusoidal was used as a sedative. Sinusoidal current was also used in the treatment of paralysis, atrophied muscles, diabetes, and obesity.<sup>19</sup>

Mercury Rubbing: Before antibiotics, mercury and potassium iodide were the standard treatments for syphilis. Preparations of mercury were administered by mouth; by injection; and by inunction, or rubbing.<sup>20</sup>

The inunction method consists of rubbing mercury ointment (blue ointment) on the skin every day for a week, but each day on a different part of the body. The arms, the legs,

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15. Kellogg, Rational Hydrotherapy, p. 946.

16. Ibid.; Abbott, Principles and Practice of Hydrotherapy, p. 441.

17. Kellogg, Rational Hydrotherapy, p. 946.

18. Ibid., p. 947.

19. Abbot, Principles and Practices of Hydrotherapy, p. 441; Kellogg, Rational Hydrotherapy, p. 947.

20. Parkes Weber and Guy Hinsdale, Climatology, Health Resorts -- Mineral Springs, A System of Physiologic Therapeutics, ed. Solomon Solis Cohen (Philadelphia: P. Blakiston's Son and Co., 1901), Vol. IV, F. p. 279.



the back, and the chest are the usual places for inunction treatment. At the end of a week the patient takes a bath and then the course is started again.<sup>21</sup>

The side effect of this medication, essentially mercury poisoning, produced soreness and bleeding of the gums, excessive saliva, and diarrhea with bloody stools.<sup>22</sup> Taking this treatment at the Fordyce Bathhouse afforded many advantages. Doctors believed that hot baths maintained good skin condition during treatment and stimulated the kidneys to excrete both the mercury and syphilis toxins. They also thought that copious drinking of the water flushed out the tissues and minimized mercury deposits. The hot water baths and drinking also supposedly rid the body of the syphilis toxins before they caused damage to the brain and other organs.<sup>23</sup> Additional therapy suggested for syphilitics included "limiting the amount of brain work,...avoiding mental worry," eating a nourishing diet, exercising regularly in the open air, and using baths and massages to keep good skin condition.<sup>24</sup> Obviously, all of these requirements could be easily met at a spa resort like Hot Springs, not to mention the advantage of being away from the prying eyes of family and friends. Thus, many of the doctors at Hot Springs specialized in the treatment of venereal diseases.

By the mid-1930s, intramuscular injections of mercury preparations were more commonly used to treat syphilis than mercury rubbing.<sup>25</sup> The development of antibiotics sounded the final death knell for mercury

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21. A.S. Blumgarten, A Textbook of Medicine for Students in Schools of Nursing, 2nd ed. (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1935), p. 210. 22. Ibid., p. 211.

23. Weber and Hinsdale, Climatology, Health Resorts, p. 280-281.

24. Ibid., p. 279.

25. Blumgarten, A Textbook of Medicine, p. 210.

rubbed at Hot Springs. Antibiotic treatments for venereal diseases were much safer, with fewer side effects, and had largely replaced mercury treatments by the mid-1940s.

Nauheim Bath: The saline and effervescent Nauheim bath was composed of various chemicals, which when mixed together in a tub of warm water (85°-94°F) reacted to release carbon dioxide. Formulas usually included salt, baking soda, and some kind of acid like sodium bisulphate or muriatic acid. After the bath was prepared, the patient would lie in the solution for 5 to 20 minutes, with a cold compress on the head and an ice bag on the heart. During the course of the baths (never exceeding 20 in number), the temperature of the bath was gradually lowered and the salinity increased.<sup>26</sup>

The Nauheim bath supposedly stimulated the blood circulation in the skin, caused the heart to beat more slowly and steadily, and raised the blood pressure. It also stimulated the metabolism and encouraged the elimination of "gouty toxins." The Nauheim bath was employed in the treatment of "valvular insufficiency and stenosis, cardiac dilation, hyperthyroidism,...cardiac neuroses,...Bright's disease [kidney disease], chronic articular rheumatism, gout and obesity."<sup>27</sup>

Packs: Hot wet packs consisted of cloths (usually towels at the Fordyce Bathhouse) soaked in very hot water, wrung almost dry, then applied to the affected part. The purpose of the hot pack was to increase the circulation at the point of application. It was believed that applying

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26. Abbott, Principles and Practice of Hydrotherapy, pp. 443-444.

27. Ibid., p. 445.

a hot pack would "stimulat[e] tissue activity, quicken...the circulation and general nutritive processes, and encourag[e] absorption and repair."<sup>28</sup>

Hot wet packs were considered good for practically every pain or disease, but particularly to "reduce swelling, stimulate the absorption of an effusion or an exudate, excite tissue change, increase local blood supply, promote leucocytosis, and awaken functional activity."<sup>29</sup> Hot packs relieved the pain and reduced the swelling of sprains, strains, broken bones, rheumatism, hemorrhoids, and hundreds of other ailments and were a regular part of the treatment at the bathhouse.

Salt Glow Treatment: In this treatment, the attendant massaged the patient with lightly moistened salt (figure 134). After the salt was rubbed in thoroughly, it was removed by a shower or spray.<sup>30</sup> The salt glow treatment was used in cases characterized by inactive skin, such as chronic indigestion, Bright's disease (kidney disease), and diabetes. The chemical irritation of the salt and the physical irritation caused by the sharp salt crystals stimulated the circulation of the blood in the skin and was considered a valuable tonic.<sup>31</sup>

Scotch Douche: When receiving a Scotch douche, the patient stood in the shower area while the attendant directed a stream of water over all or part of the patient's body (figure 30). Hot water was sprayed for the

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28. Kellogg, Rational Hydrotherapy, p. 796.

29. Ibid. p. 798.

30. J.H. Kellogg, Rational Hydrotherapy, p. 641.

31. Ibid., p. 642.

first 1 to 4 minutes, immediately followed by 3 to 30 seconds of cold water. The initial hot water spray warmed the body and intensified the effect of the final cold water spray.<sup>32</sup> Cold water supposedly acted as a tonic; that is, it increased the appetite for food and the capacity for mental and muscular activity.<sup>33</sup>

The Scotch douche often followed a sweating therapy, for example, a vapor bath, Turkish bath, or electric light bath. The sweating procedure and Scotch douche were used in combination to treat cases of sciatica, rheumatism, gout, dropsy, and neuralgia, especially when complicated by obesity.<sup>34</sup> The Scotch douche was also used to energize relaxed or paralyzed muscles; to relieve the muscle fatigue and malaise experienced by people with neurasthenia and dyspepsia; and to treat "cases of lumbago, crural neuralgia, sciatica, enteralgia, gastralgia, uterine and ovarian neuralgia, pleuritic pains, intercostal neuralgia, gastric ulcer, 'spinal irritation', and chronic 'backache.'"<sup>35</sup>

Sitz Bath: The sitz bath, usually given in a specially constructed sitz tub (figures 21 and 135), allowed the patient to sit waist deep in water with the feet and legs outside. Often the feet were placed in a separate, smaller tub of water.

The cold sitz bath (water temperature 55-75°F) combined with massage was used to treat constipation.<sup>36</sup> The hot sitz bath, commonly used in Hot Springs, was designed to stimulate circulation and concentrate blood in

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32. Ibid, p. 458.

33. Ibid., p. 431.

34. Ibid., p. 457.

35. Ibid., p. 465.

36. Abbott, Principles and Practice of Hydrotherapy, p. 769.



the pelvic area. The hot sitz was used for treating menstrual dysfunctions, "vaginismus, spasm of the neck of the bladder, anal tenesinus, ... uterine colic, ... nephritic colic, ... sciatica, lumbo-abdominal neuralgia, neuralgia of the ovaries, testicles, and bladder," and for relieving the pain of inflamed hemorrhoids.<sup>37</sup>

Sprays and Douches: A spray bath was similar to a shower except that in addition to the overhead nozzle, water was projected against the body from rows of horizontal jets surrounding the patient (figure 136). The needle shower consisted of many tiny jets of water under high enough pressure to produce a tingling sensation. A douche was a localized application of water, projected by a hose against one part of the body.<sup>38</sup> An irrigation was a douche applied to the eye, ear, nose, stomach, rectum, colon, bladder, urethra, or vagina.<sup>39</sup>

The douche combined the thermal effects of the hot or cold water with the mechanical effects produced by the water pressure and type of nozzle. The force of the water stimulated the circulation of the blood and lymph.<sup>40</sup> The cold water douche acted as a tonic, creating an appetite for food and an increase in mental and muscular activity.<sup>41</sup> The hot douche was a powerful analgesic and was used in treating "sciatica, painful rheumatic joints, sprains, neuralgic affections, ... chronic gastritis, hyperpepsia, gastric ulcer, congestions of the liver and spleen, ... pelvic congestion, and ... inflammation of the uterus and ovaries."<sup>42</sup>

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37. Kellogg, Rational Hydrotherapy, p. 769.

38. Abbott, Principles and Practice of Hydrotherapy, pp. 470-471.

39. Kellogg, Rational Hydrotherapy, p. 429.

40. Ibid.

41. Ibid., p. 431.

42. Ibid. p. 432.

In a Scotch douche, the water temperature alternated between hot and cold. (See entry for "Scotch douche.")

Swedish Movements: Swedish movements were a program of exercises that emphasized the completion of a sequence of movements. This sequence brought each muscle in the body into play, first individually, then in groups of muscles, and finally in exercises involving the whole body. The drill began with warming up exercises, followed by leg movements, trunk movements, chest exercises, balance movements, more complex trunk movements, and finally various games, jumping, running, and vaulting.<sup>43</sup> Exercises were performed either actively or passively with the help of a physical culture instructor.<sup>44</sup>

Tissue Oscillator: "The Oscillator is...a means of inducing direct local exercise in the tissues of a part of the body which otherwise would remain inactive."<sup>45</sup> This machine (figure 137) bears a striking resemblance to modern reducing machines. The Palace Bathhouse promotional literature claimed that this machine was "useful in treating Poor Circulation, Torpid Liver, Constipation, Indigestion, Obesity, [and] General Weakness."<sup>46</sup>

Vapor Bath: When taking a vapor bath, the patient was seated in a cabinet and exposed to steam at a temperature of 115-140°F. When the

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43. John K. Mitchell and Luther Halsey Gulick, Mechanotherapy and Physical Education, ed. Solomon Solis Cohen, A System of Physiologic Therapeutics (Philadelphia: P. Blakiston's Son and Co., 1940), Vol. VII, p. 129.

44. Ibid., p. 130.

45. "Department of Electricity and Massage," National Archives, RG-79.

46. Ibid.

head was enclosed in the cabinet, the treatment was called a head-in vapor or sometimes a Russian bath (figures 31 and 138). The vapor bath was a much more powerful therapy than the hot air bath, since moist air communicates heat much better than dry air.<sup>47</sup>

The vapor bath caused profuse sweating, rapid pulse, and an increased body temperature.<sup>48</sup> Doctors believed that the increase in body temperature destroyed toxins associated with chronic rheumatism. A prolonged (15- to 30-minute) vapor bath was recommended for treatment of rheumatism, jaundice, obesity, and the final stage of syphilis. People suffering from neuralgias, paralyses, disorders of the spinal cord, hysteria, and hypochondria supposedly benefitted from the vapor bath.<sup>49</sup> The head-in vapors helped temporarily relieve symptoms of bronchitis and cleared sinus passages.<sup>50</sup>

Vibrator: The vibrator (figure 139) stimulated the skin and promoted muscular contraction through mechanical irritation and was credited with preventing muscle atrophy and restoring strength to weak muscles. Vibratory massage supposedly relieved a long list of ailments including rheumatism, stiff joints, sprains, lumbago, and diseases of the digestive tract.<sup>51</sup>

Zander Machines: Zander machines were mechanical devices designed to provide various types of massage and movements without the services of

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47. Kellogg, Rational Hydrotherapy, p. 706.

48. Ibid., p. 703.

49. Ibid., p. 705.

50. Ibid., p. 700.

51. "Department of Electricity and Massage," National Archives, RG-79.

an attendant (figures 140 and 141). The machines were operated by electricity or steam and duplicated ordinary massage manipulations or took the place of an attendant in the performance of passive, resisted and duplicated movements.<sup>52</sup>

These machines were used to treat patients suffering from obesity, neurasthenia, digestive and circulatory ailments, and arthritis.<sup>53</sup>

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52. Mitchell and Gulick, Mechanotherapy and Physical Education, pp. 132-133.

53. Ibid., p. 135.



## EVIDENCE OF ROOM USE AND ORIGINAL FURNISHINGS

### Introduction

The evidence in this section is arranged in two parts. General evidence that cannot be assigned to one particular room is arranged by topic. Room-specific evidence is arranged by room, beginning with the basement and proceeding upwards to the roof garden.

Few furnishings were added after the original purchase of furnishings in 1915. The main exceptions are the purchase of new lobby furniture in 1952 and the periodic replacement of porch furniture. The Fordyce management tried to keep the building and furnishings in good repair over the years and only sacrificed their high standards during times of financial stress.

Information on the sources used in the evidence section can be found at the beginning of the Historical Data section.

### General Evidence

General Furnishings and Furniture Repairs. Abundant evidence indicates that many pieces of furniture from the old Palace Bathhouse were refurbished and used in the Fordyce Bathhouse despite reservations voiced by Samuel W. Fordyce. Chairs and tables located in the billiard room, women's dressing room, and roof garden of the Fordyce Bathhouse can be seen in photographs of Palace Bathhouse interiors (figures 73-77).

Less evidence exists concerning the new furniture purchased for the Fordyce. The "Statement Showing the Total Cost of the Building, Furnishing and Equipment of the Fordyce Bathhouse, Hot Springs, Arkansas," dated July 1, 1916 (reproduced in appendix I), indicates that \$7,898.57 was spent on "Furniture (all description)."

John R. Fordyce and John Manier traveled to Chicago in 1914 to purchase furniture, but it is unclear whether they were going to buy the wicker furniture, the metal furniture, or both. The metal furniture was purchased from the Frank S. Betz Company of Hammond, Indiana, located just outside of Chicago. Available evidence does not indicate where the wicker furniture was purchased.

Over the years, very little new furniture was purchased for the bathhouse, except for incidentals like electric fans and clocks. Ledger entries for furniture repairs and reupholstering appear frequently, indicating that efforts were made to keep the furniture serviceable. Some purchases, for example the purchase of electric clocks in 1936, were made at the express request of the park superintendent as a condition for lease renewal.

Various sources also indicate the regular purchase of expendable supplies, such as stationery, office supplies, cleaning materials, and other incidentals associated with the operation of a bathhouse.

Before the bathhouse closed in 1962, some furniture was sold to help meet operating expenses. Sale of furniture and removal of objects continued after the bathhouse shut its doors. The Fordyce family removed some objects for personal use, gave other items away as tokens of appreciation to former employees, and donated furniture and equipment to the Hot Springs Boys' Club. Finally, Byron Neimeyer, the former manager, sold some furniture to pay for miscellaneous maintenance expenditures incurred during the 1960s.

#### References:

(1) January 1-May 1, 1914, Statement, Fordyce Bathhouse, private collection of family papers belonging to John R. Fordyce, III, Little Rock, AR (JRF), lists "Furniture (working over old) 443.87."

(2) May 6, 1914, Samuel W. Fordyce to John F. Manier, JRF: "I note an item of \$443.87 for working over old furniture. The question with me is whether the furniture, after it is worked over, is worth even what you have paid for working it over."

(3) July 3, 1914, John R. Fordyce to Samuel W. Fordyce, JRF: "You will note that Manier has an item of ten thousand dollars for furniture which I feel is very excessive and which you may be sure will not equal it."

July 11, 1914, Samuel W. Fordyce to John R. Fordyce, JRF: "Now in regard to Manier's estimate of \$10,000.00 for furniture. This may not be far out of the way."

(4) October 1, 1914, Samuel W. Fordyce to John F. Manier, JRF: "I would also like to take up and discuss with you the amount of furniture it will be necessary to equip the bathhouse with."

(5) October 23, 1914, John R. Fordyce to Samuel W. Fordyce, JRF:

Jack [John Manier] and I are planning to leave for Chicago on Sunday November the 1st. to buy the furniture, electrical fixtures, etc. We will finish and return to Hot Springs about the 5th or 6th. The progress of the work is in such a state that we can easily do this without neglecting it. We can purchase this furniture direct and save the commission of a middle man, which will more than pay our traveling expenses.

(6) October 26, 1914, Samuel W. Fordyce to John R. Fordyce, JRF: "Answering that part of your letter of the 23d inst. which says that you and Jack are planning to leave for Chicago on Sunday, Nov. 1st to buy the furniture, electrical fixtures, etc....I would like to have a talk with you and him here Sunday before you go to Chicago...."

(7) January 15, 1915, John R. Fordyce to Samuel W. Fordyce, JRF:

I have not taken it up with them as to whether or not they would accept a note but I wish you would do so if you desire the account handled that way. If not, you might send me another \$5,000.00 in about ten days and I will use part of it for that and the balance on the furniture.

(8) May 22, 1915, John F. Manier to Samuel W. Fordyce, JRF: Unpaid bills include "Wicker furniture...500.00"

(9) January 7, 1916, John F. Manier to Samuel W. Fordyce, p. 2, JRF: "Three tin pans to put under flower pots .30" and "Two large pans for to place under fern buckets .90" were purchased in December 1915.

(10) February 1916, "Expense Account," JRF: Entries appear for "magazines .75," "periodicals.80," and "Collier's Weekly .50."

(11) June 1918, "Supplementary Statement #2 Showing Investment, Earnings and relative percent on Investment (for fiscal year ending June 30, 1918)," private collection of family papers belonging to Edward Fordyce, St. Louis, MO (EF), lists "Electric Fan...18.50."



(12) July 10, 1918, John F. Manier to Col. Samuel W. Fordyce, EF:

For instance, our Taxes on the bathhouse have been raised from \$1,656.86 to \$3,017.50 (nearly double). Laundry from \$1 per hundred pieces to \$1.50, and this will go to \$2.00 by next Spring. Fuel Gas has been raised 20%, Sheets that we formerly secured for \$8.75 per dozen now cost \$18.00, Liquid Soap has gone from 70¢ to \$1.80 per gallon in 6 bbl. lots, Clerk hire and all other help costs materially more, Ice has gone from 40¢ to 60¢ per 100 lbs. Postage 33 1/3% more, even Telephone service, Printing, Stationery and in fact everything that we purchase or use has gone from 25% to 150% higher, BUT THE RATES FOR BATHS REMAINING THE SAME CURTAILS OUR SOURCE OF REVENUE. Taking all this into consideration I believe you will agree with me that we have had a very successful year.

(13) June 1919, Statement and Trial Balance, Fordyce Bathhouse, prepared by John F. Manier, EF: "Printing:--\$212.50 is for coupon books for all different departments to take the place of old style tickets, which were exhausted."

(14) July 1920, Statement and Trial Balance, Fordyce Bathhouse, prepared by John F. Manier, EF, lists "Betterments (New Electric Fan)... 34.50."

(15) 1920, "Financial Statement of the Fordyce Bath House for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31st, 1920, Statement #4; Item #1" (probably prepared by John F. Manier), EF:

Inventory of Stock on hand in unbroken packages Dec. 31, 1920 which was paid for and not included as an Asset in computing the Net Earnings:-----

Coupon Bath Books.....	\$ 283.97
100 -- Flat drinking cups @1.60.....	160.00
7500 Lilly " " @5.90-----	44.25
12 M Letter heads.....	71.50
100 M Note heads.....	175.00
4500 Large Envelopes.....	27.00
75 M Envelopes.....	130.25
1 Bbl Liquid Soap.....	44.50
1 bx Zinc Oxide Strapping tape.....	23.88
Unexpired portion of Insurance Policies.....	180.70
5675 Advertising booklets.....	547.50
3 M Post Cards.....	12.00
1 bx Toilet Paper.....	18.25
1 dozen heavy tile scrub brushes....	29.40
Mops and Brooms.....	7.50
1 bbl scrubbing powder.....	12.00

TOTAL..... \$1,767.70



(16) May 13, 1940, Byron L. Neimeyer to C. Powell Fordyce, "List of Expenditures 1932-6," University of Arkansas, Fayetteville Special Collections (UASC). Listed for 1936: "MK Electric Co. (Clocks). ...190.35" were listed.

(17) 1942-50, Ledger Sheets, UASC. Expenditures include: 1942, "furniture repairs," \$80.36; 1943, "furniture reupholstering....We had furniture in cooling rooms repaired and reupholstered -- not an annual expenditure," \$321.50; 1944, "upholstering F&F....Slip covers purchased and leather covers replaced," \$143.64; 1945, "purchase & repair of clocks in building," \$121.25; 1946, "additions to lounge furniture and repairs, for use in cooling rooms," \$704.21; 1948, "hair dryer, rubber tired truck and interoffice communication system," \$321.91; January 1949, "upholstering furniture," \$200.00; 1949, "purchase of office fan," \$75.00; May 1950, "mattress repairs," \$24.62; and 1950, "radio repairs," \$32.95 and "purchase of 24 electric clocks," \$100.37.

(18) May 22 or 23, 1952, Byron L. Neimeyer to Samuel W. Fordyce, Jr., UASC:

Attached is a breakdown of the money the bathhouse spent during years 1942 through 1950 -- for improvement and to maintain our standards and those of the Dept. of [the] Interior. I have gone through the paid bills for these years and [have] tried to explain, for your information, the larger items -- I hope you can establish with the department that with these monies we have been able to keep our plant in good state of repair and satisfactory condition to serve the public. This should give them an idea of the cost of maintaining for future estimates.

(19) 1952, Audit Report compiled by Russell Brown & Co., UASC: Under the heading "Funds Applied To" appears the entry "purchase of Furniture and Fixtures 1,363.80."

(20) 1961, Audit Report compiled by Russell Brown & Co., Schedule "1," UASC:

<u>Furniture and Fixtures</u>	<u>Acquired</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Prior to 1931		22,840.66
Additions	1940	409.75
Beauty parlor fixtures	1941	201.45
2 fans	1949	75.00
24 electric clocks	1950	100.37
Additions	1952	1,363.80
Additions	1953	371.70
Porch furniture	1955	189.81
Chaise longue	1956	35.00
Television set	1958	325.00
		<u>25,912.54</u>

(21) 1958-62, Interview with Mrs. Neimeyer conducted by Earl Adams, February 26, 1981, HOSP: "Some furniture was sold in order to keep the bathhouse going before it closed in 1962."

(22) April 23, 1965, C. Powell Fordyce to Byron L. Neimeyer, HOSP: "Downs and I looked around through the Bathhouse and took some of the sheets, towels, and stationery with us."

(23) February 12, 1968, C. Powell Fordyce to Edward Fordyce, EF:

Much to my surprise, I received a letter from "Bones" Neimeyer the other day saying that during 1967 he had sold bathhouse lockers, chairs, tables and beds, because at one time we had asked him to get rid of things which we could not use. The total received from this sale in 1967 was \$205.00.

Metal Furniture. The metal furniture used in the bath halls, pack rooms, and cooling rooms of the Fordyce was made of welded steel with a baked-on, white porcelain enamel finish. Apparently, many of the bathhouses used the same kind of utilitarian furniture. The Maurice and the Fordyce Bathhouse (and possibly other bathhouses) purchased their metal furniture from the Frank S. Betz Company of Hammond, Indiana. The metal furniture may have been purchased by John R. Fordyce and John Manier during their trip to Chicago in 1914 (described in the previous section).

By 1915 the park superintendent was strongly advocating the use of "sanitary furnishings" in the bathhouses. Upholstered furniture and carpeting, both difficult to keep clean in 1915, were considered unsanitary. Thus, "The Maurice, the Bath House Beautiful," an advertising booklet published c.1915, proudly proclaims "Nothing in the way of carpets or upholstering is used in this new bathing palace." The article on the opening of the Fordyce in the Sentinel-Record, February 28, 1915, Section 2, p. 1, describes the cooling room as being "furnished with porcelain enameled furniture, which is absolutely sanitary." Although the metal furniture was not originally upholstered or padded, the Fordyce management may have added cushions later at the request of patrons. By 1930, the second cooling rooms were "provided with padded rest cots" (Enclosure for form letter from Fordyce Baths to doctors in Hot Springs,

September 23, 1930, HOSP). In addition, a letter from George C. Bolton to Superintendent Thomas J. Allen, dated August 27, 1934, states: "It is disgusting to note that chairs and lounges have through years of usage gotten their leather covers rotted through the perspiring bathers who have used them." Bolton may be referring to the leather upholstered wooden furniture and other items salvaged from the Palace Bathhouse for use in the Fordyce.

By the 1940s, photographs clearly indicate that pads or cushions were being used on the massage tables and on some of the pack tables. These cushions appear to be made of mattress ticking and were always covered with a sheet.

The metal furniture must have been built well, since the bathhouse used the same furniture until it closed in 1962. At that time some of the furniture was sold to a new bathhouse opening in a local hotel.

#### References:

- (1) December 10, 1914, John R. Fordyce to Samuel W. Fordyce, JRF:

I see no reason at present to change the date of opening from January 15th, of course, there are delays possible in the furniture and the equipment we bought from Betts, that is the enameled cots, chairs and etc. this -- I am unable to predict.

- (2) December 15, 1914, John R. Fordyce to Samuel W. Fordyce, JRF:

I am afraid that the enamel lounges for the cooling room are going to cause a delay as the Betz people in Chicago have written that they have had some bad luck with these in the enameling ovens, however, we could use the old wicker ones we had in the old bathhouse and substitute the new ones for them when they come.

- (3) c.1915, Advertisement (figure 69), "Betz Delivers the Goods," "The Maurice: The Bath House Beautiful," p. 18.

- (4) January 15, 1915, Samuel W. Fordyce to John R. Fordyce, JRF:

The glazed lounges, Jack informed me, would not be sent for 45 days, and he thought we could use some of the other lounges there by putting clean sheets over them



until the enameled ones arrived. I think he told me there was some other enameled furniture to be shipped. Do you think you will get that and everything else ready to open the house on the 1st of February?

(5) January 18, 1915, John R. Fordyce to Samuel W. Fordyce, JRF: "I have notice from the Betz people that their furniture has been shipped."

(6) February 9, 1915, John R. Fordyce to Samuel W. Fordyce, JRF:

The locker boxes came today but we are still short the enamel cots. They have promised to get these here on the 18th but we have as yet received no bill of lading for them.

(7) May 22, 1915, John F. Manier to Samuel W. Fordyce, JRF: Unpaid bills include "Metal [furniture] 2000.00."

(8) December 9, 1915, John F. Manier to Samuel W. Fordyce, JRF: Outstanding bills include "Frank Betz Company, for metal furniture, 1200.00."

(9) December 14, 1915, John F. Manier to Samuel W. Fordyce, JRF: "I want to get a better settlement with the Betz people on the metal furniture...so I am withholding payment on these."

(10) February 2, 1916, John F. Manier to Samuel W. Fordyce, JRF:

I have not been able to secure a correct statement from the Frank Betz Co., of Hammond Ind. This is the firm that supplied us with the metal furniture. I have written them at least ten letters, telling them that we desired the matter closed but can not get them to render us a correct itemized statement. Notwithstanding that we owe them in the neighborhood of \$1200.00 It looks as though they are not in a hurry for their money, as the goods were supplied nearly a year ago.

(11) February 10, 1916, John F. Manier to Samuel W. Fordyce, JRF:

In answer to my last communication to the Frank S. Betz Co., I got a final statement and adjustment of the matter under controversy. He has allowed us a total credit of \$674.40 on the goods supplied us, which brought down our total amount to \$496.19 from \$1170.59. I have mailed them [a] check for the above amount, payment in full, checking against the money you supplied me, as per my requisition of December 9.

(12) September 15, 1925, H.H. Julian to John R. Fordyce, UASC: "Lee is still enameling the iron cots and chairs and other equipment as rapidly as he can without interfering with his other work."



(13) August 31, 1964, Byron L. Neimeyer to C. Powell Fordyce, HOSP:

I have an offer, from Aristocrat Hotel, (new one across from Arlington) as follows--

10 cots 25.00 ea.	\$250.00
6 chairs 20.00 ea.	120.00
	<u>\$370.00</u>

These are the steel ones [that] we used in pack & cooling rooms. They will hardly be missed as there are many more left. The Aristocrat would like to pay for them on receipt of your approval and store them in a separate location in the basement for about 90 days -- (until they are ready for them) -- I suggest you accept this offer.

(14) October 7, 1964, Byron L. Neimeyer to C. Powell Fordyce, HOSP:

I have not received check as yet for the cots & chairs (we still have them). The purchaser phoned me that he would like to increase the number of cots to 18 -- I told him I would let him know -- the sale of the extra 8 -- could run the bathhouse a little short in case of reopening.

(15) February 12, 1968, C. Powell Fordyce to Downs Fordyce, HOSP:

The other day "Bones" Neimeyer sent me a list showing that during 1967 he had collected from the sale of Fordyce Bathhouse lockers, chairs, tables and beds, a total of \$205.00. Some years ago I did ask him to see if he could sell some of these things which we could not use ourselves, but I did not realize that he had made these additional sales in 1967, or that he was continuing to try to make such sales.

(16) March 15, 1971, Deed of Gift from Fordyce Bathhouse (signed by C. Powell Fordyce) to the Hot Springs Boys' Club, HOSP: The Fordyce Bathhouse gave the Boys' Club "6 metal chairs \$60.00 [and] 2 Metal Coat Racks 12.00."

(17) January 14, 1974, "C.P. Fordyce Transactions Fordyce Bathhouse 1973," HOSP: "June 6 - 1973 -- Sale of 6 steel cots \$120.00."

(18) February 4, 1974, C. Powell Fordyce to Byron L. Neimeyer, HOSP: "With one of your recent letters you enclosed a copy of a statement showing that you sold certain cots of the Fordyce Bathhouse and paid for having the grass cut."

Sitz Baths. Currently, there are nine sitz baths in the Fordyce Bathhouse: one in the ladies' bath hall, four in the men's bath hall, three in the hydrotherapy room, and one in the steam room. Until at least 1929, the Fordyce Bathhouse's only sitz bath was located on the south wall of the hydrotherapy room.

The blue stains found on one sitz tub probably resulted from the blue ointment used in the mercury rubbing treatment for syphilis. People who had taken the mercury treatment often used the sitz bath afterwards.

When the rest of the sitz baths were installed remains a mystery. Although the Fordyce Bathhouse was granted permission to install another sitz bath in 1929, there is no indication that the plan was carried out. No unusual expenditures for machinery and equipment or furniture and fixture maintenance appear in financial records for 1929-31. Possibly the stock market crash and the resulting economic turmoil dissuaded the Fordyce management from making any unnecessary expenditure. At least one sitz bath was installed in 1936, and "new sitz baths" (number unknown) were installed in 1946. The evidence does not indicate the locations of these installations. Probably the two newer sitz tubs in the hydrotherapy room were added when that room was remodeled in the 1930s or 1940s.

#### References:

(1) April 27, 1929, Joseph Bolten to Fordyce Manager Frank A. Stérns, UASC:

In answer to your request of April 22nd, to install another Sitz bath in the Fordyce Bathhouse, you are advised that the place requested for the installation of the Sitz is not satisfactory to this office. The condition you wish to obviate will not be helped any, inasmuch as you would have both your Sitz baths in the same room and we do not desire to mix up the male and female bathers at any time. However, the location I picked for you yesterday will be satisfactory to this office. If you will install in one of your head-out vapors a Sitz bath, then I am sure this will take care of your problem. The male bathers can use this new installation and the female bathers can use the Sitz Bath in your hydrotherapy room.

(2) August 27, 1934, Memorandum from George C. Bolton to Thomas J. Allen (regarding inspection of the Fordyce Bathhouse prior to lease renewal), HOSP Central Files:

The vapor cabinet room off the men's bath hall needs going over. This is one of the poorest spots in the whole building. I would recommend that another Sitz bath be authorized for the men's side and one for the women's side. I also recommend that should these be approved that the one on the men's side be placed on the extreme right of the vapor cabinets and that the whole system of Sitz baths and Cabinets be painted, with the exception of course of the Sitz tubs.

(3) October 10, 1935, Byron L. Neimeyer to Thomas J. Allen, HOSP Central Files: "We wish to put in two sitz tubs on the men's side of the bathhouse and desire your approval."

(4) October 13, 1935, Thomas J. Allen to Manager, Fordyce Bathhouse, HOSP Central Files: "Approval is hereby given to the installation of two sitz tubs on the men's side of the Fordyce Bathhouse, as requested in your letter of October 10, 1935."

(5) 1936, Byron L. Neimeyer to C. Powell Fordyce, List of Expenditures from 1932 to 1936 compiled May 13, 1940, includes entries for 1936 "Harry Crumbaugh (work on new Sitz bath) \$80.00" and "Schrader Plumbing Co. (Sitz bath) 346.59."

(6) c.1934-1939, Photograph (figure 21), "Up-to-date Seitz Bath Facilities," "Fordyce Baths," p. 3.

(7) 1946, Ledger Sheets, UASC: "Sitz baths and installations and fire extinguishers 588.64 -- Installation of new sitz baths complete -- also purchase of new fire extinguishers for safety purposes."

(8) c.1940s, Photograph (figure 26), "The Sitz bath is part of the modern Fordyce equipment...." "Life Begins again at the Fordyce," p. 3, HOSP.

(9) August 9, 1954, Donald S. Libbey to Byron L. Neimeyer (results of inspection prior to lease renewal), HOSP Central Files: "3 -- Explore the possibility of obtaining automatic controls for the use of water in the sitz baths which would also result in savings in the volume of water used."

(10) December 10, 1954, Donald S. Libbey to Byron L. Neimeyer, HOSP Central Files: "In general you are to be complimented on the excellent rehabilitation of the Fordyce Bathhouse. It is recognized that you had difficulty in obtaining automatic controls for the use of water in the Sitz baths."



(11) October 30, 1986, Paul F. Sullivan to Carol Petravage: "The sitz tubs in the bath halls and the steam room are alike. There are the two newer ones in the hydrotherapy room and the one odd one with the blue stains."

Bathtubs. The architect's plans called for 21 tubs in the men's bath hall, 8 in the ladies' bath hall, and 1 in the hydrotherapy room. When the tubs were delivered, they were of inferior quality and one was broken during shipping. The bathhouse management chose to install only 7 tubs in the ladies' bath hall, for a total of 29 tubs. From the time the bathhouse opened, however, water rent was paid on 30 tubs. To rectify this situation and relieve the overcrowding in the ladies' bath hall, Manier had an extra tub from the Superior Bathhouse installed in the ladies' bath hall in 1916.

In 1921, the bathhouse management considered replacing most of the equipment in the hydrotherapy room with three additional tubs, raising their tub quota to 33. Evidence indicates that this plan was never carried out. Instead, in the late 1920s or 1930s, a number of fixtures were moved around to better serve the patrons. In the hydrotherapy room, the metal table, electric light bath, and frigid cabinet were replaced with two tubs taken from the northeast and southeast corners of the men's bath hall. The hydroelectric bathtub was exchanged with the tub from stall "H" in the men's bath hall so that all of the bathtubs in the hydrotherapy room matched in style. Either at the same time or at a later date, six sitz tubs were installed: two each in the northeast and southeast corners of the men's bath hall and two in the hydrotherapy room.

These changes accomplished several goals. Having three tubs in the hydrotherapy room enabled the Fordyce Bathhouse to adjust to a changing clientele. These bathtubs could be used for men or women (although not simultaneously). This allowed the bathhouse to accommodate more women bathers. The equipment that was removed does not appear to have been very popular. The new arrangement allowed the management to add more sitz tubs, appealing to an expanded female clientele.



## References:

(1) August 20, 1914, John R. Fordyce to Samuel W. Fordyce, JRF: "Callahan means that half of the tubs were finished. As there are twenty-eight of them this means that fourteen are done and ready to ship. These tubs were of a special pattern, owing to the large outlets required in Hot Springs."

(2) September 28, 1914, John R. Fordyce to Mr. Callahan, Hot Springs Plumbing and Machine Co., JRF:

Referring to our conversation this morning in regard to Tubs being "B" Grade, or better:---

The basis on which we let the contract with Wolf was for Grade "A" or any other number that was the very highest grade he could turn out.....

These tubs according to you, are some of them "B" grade. Therefore, while we will use them as they are, because we have no time to wait for the others, we expect the Wolf Co., to make us a substantial reduction in price, or agree to furnish "A" Grade and pay the expense of taking out the "B" grade tubs, and install "A" Grade throughout at the earliest possible date.

(3) 1914, "Comparative Statement of Estimate Rendered June 25 and Amount Paid on Same to September 25th Showing Estimate of Balance Required Based Upon the Original Estimate," submitted October 10, 1914, by John F. Manier, JRF: "The bathtubs arrived today, and I regret to say that they are not up to my expectations. However, Callahan assured me that they were as good as could be procured."

(4) October 1, 1914, Samuel W. Fordyce to John F. Manier, JRF: "I regret exceedingly to note by your letter that the bathtubs are not up to your expectations. John has written me to the same effect. I think, therefore, that we should refuse to accept these tubs until we can have an adjustment of the whole matter."

(5) October 20, 1914, William P. Parks to Secretary of the Department of the Interior, HOSP Central Files:

The plumbers are now setting the bathtubs, all of which are now on the ground, with the exception of one tub which was broken in transit. No marble work has as yet been installed, but I am informed that one carload of marble was shipped from Peoria, Illinois, on the 18th instant, and all other marble necessary in the building I am assured will be shipped within a short period of time.

(6) January 23, 1916, William P. Parks to the Secretary of the Department of the Interior, HOSP Central Files:

Referring to my letter of February 25, 1915, relative to the construction of the Fordyce Bathhouse, and to the particular paragraph as to the total number of bathtubs installed therein, namely, 29, will state that ever since the opening of the house they have been paying on a total of 30 tubs as required by the Department.

I am now notified by the manager that they intend to install the additional tub in the ladies' department as originally intended, and he has this day been granted permission to install same.

This additional tub will simply give the Fordyce Bathhouse their full quota of tubs as provided for in their lease and on which they are now paying water rent.

(7) February 17, 1916, John F. Manier to Samuel W. Fordyce, JRF:

From the above you will see that the Construction bills have all been paid and the account can now be closed out in full. But before we do so, we should install another bathtub on the women's side of the house. As explained, OUR LEASE CALLS FOR 30 TUBS AND WE ARE PAYING WATER RENT TO THE GOVERNMENT FOR THAT NUMBER, AND WE HAVE ONLY 29 TUBS. We are badly in need of another one and have the room to install same. I called up the Superintendent's office, and Frank Bayley told me we were entitled to install another one. I had a talk with Mr. Barkley who has charge of Wm. Borman & Brothers, and he said that they were doing the plumbing work for the Superior Bathhouse and [that] they had an extra tub that they would install for us at cost. At the most it would not exceed \$200.00 and I recommend that we take advantage of this offer as we are badly crowded with lady bathers, and this additional tub will help us greatly; And if you approve this, I will have it installed immediately.

(8) June 7, 1921, Assistant Director, National Park Service, Arno B. Cammerer to William P. Parks, National Archives, RG-79, 900-05, pt. 2: "...permission is given the Fordyce Bathhouse to install three additional bathtubs in the space that has heretofore been used for the hydro-therapeutic equipment subject to the conditions of Mr. Fordyce's letter to you of June 1st, accepting the conditions of the removal of this apparatus."

(9) July 20, 1921, William P. Parks to Director, National Park Service, HOSP Central Files:

You will note that the Fordyce has twenty-nine regular bathtubs, and one bathtub used in connection with the

hydro-therapeutic room, making a total of thirty tubs in all. This is the number of tubs that the Government is collecting for.

The additional three tubs will make a total of thirty-three tubs that we will collect for, as soon as they are installed. Your authorization of June 7th will increase the total number of tubs to thirty-three.

Only thirty tubs were paid for [by] Colonel Fordyce for the September quarter, as these three tubs, authorized June 7, were not installed, and will not be until possibly December or January.

Maintenance. The Fordyce Bathhouse required continual upkeep. The warm, damp atmosphere encouraged peeling paint and flaking plaster. Broken tilework needed repairing immediately to prevent injury to patrons. The enormous number of pipes and plumbing fixtures required constant attention. Periodically, Hot Springs Creek overflowed the creek arch and flooded basements along Bathhouse Row.

The park superintendent thoroughly inspected each bathhouse on a regular basis but conducted particularly rigorous inspections whenever a bathhouse applied for lease renewal. The Fordyce Bathhouse lease came up for renewal in 1934 and 1954.

Extensive repairs were required for the 1934 lease renewal. During the depression, bathhouse profits had decreased dramatically and little money was available for repairs and upkeep. Thus, the condition of the bathhouse had deteriorated.

The 1954 inspection proceeded more smoothly, probably because the late 1940s were the most profitable years for the bathhouse and the management had enough money to keep the bathhouse in top condition.

In 1958, however, the Fordyce family decided to try to sell the bathhouse, and from then on only minimal effort was expended on maintaining the building. By 1962 the bathhouse was badly deteriorated once again.



## References:

(1) July 1917, "Supplementary Statement #2 Showing Investment, Earnings and relative percent on Investment (for fiscal year ending June 30, 1918)," EF, lists "Window Screens...18.25."

(2) July 16, 1923, Manager, Fordyce Bathhouse, to Superintendent Clarence H. Waring, HOSP Central Files:

We wish to submit the following report of damage done by the flood:

Loss on baths	149.00
Loss on redemptions	139.45
Cleaning basement	50.00
Damage to bowling alleys	136.80
Drying motors	35.00
Replacement supplies	187.35
Repairing ventilating system	20.00
Repairing rheostat system	75.00
Repairing elevator	175.00
Cleaning reservoir	183.79
Extra work	30.00
Loss of supplies	202.50
Street repair	250.00
Total	<u>\$1633.89</u>

(3) October 9, 1926, Memorandum from Superintendent Joseph Bolten to All Bathhouse Managers, UASC:

During recent inspections of the bathhouses I have noticed that in nearly all of the houses there are minor repair jobs needing to be done.

The dull season for bathing is now beginning, and I hope the bathhouse managers will take advantage of it to see that the houses receive a thorough cleaning up and renovating at this time. Cots and chairs should be repaired and painted, walls and ceilings renewed where necessary. Plumbing fixtures should be inspected and repaired if faulty, bath fixtures repaired and such improvements made as will put the bathhouses in first class condition for the winter season....

The majority of the bathhouses have been maintained in excellent condition during the past year, and I am sure all managers are glad to cooperate so that we may have the same splendid conditions during the coming year.

(4) October 14, 1927, Memorandum from Superintendent Joseph Bolten to All Bathhouse Managers, UASC:

Your attention is called at this time of the year to the necessity of repairing and painting the bathhouse interi-



or, as well as the equipment, this being the time of the year when business is at its ebb, which gives you plenty of time to make these repairs.

It is noticed in a number of bathhouses that the cots and chairs are badly in need of painting; that the walls are in a miserable condition, and that the bathhouses in general [have] the appearance of being run down.

(5) April 17, 1929, Joseph Bolten to Frank A. Stearns, HOSP Central Files:

Inspection of your bathhouse at 1:15 P.M. yesterday, in company with a distinguished visitor from Denver, Colorado, revealed a very deplorable condition.

I had been boasting of the bathhouse, what a fine place it was, and have been taking visitors through to show them a completely equipped and fine bathhouse. If, in the future, conditions exist as they did yesterday, I am afraid I will have to take visitors to other bathhouses and tell them why I am passing up the Fordyce bathhouse.

It appears to me that one of the porters, or elevator boy, or some one else connected with the house, can go through the entire house picking up sheets, towels and paper at all times; and not at the close of 12 o'clock everybody drop whatever they are doing and go to lunch. It isn't up to this office to advise managers as to the internal management of their own affairs, but this condition was so bad that I am taking this opportunity to advise you to have the matter attended to in the future.

(6) August 27, 1934, Memorandum from George C. Bolton to Superintendent Thomas J. Allen, HOSP Central Files:

It is a shame that a house of this calibre has been allowed to deteriorate as it has. It should be brought back up to standard. I believe that in full repair it would have an appeal to a class of persons who would appreciate the equipment....

I estimate that to fully paint and repair this house and its equipment where necessary and to install new furniture etc., will run close to \$12,000.00.

(7) January 15, 1935, John R. Fordyce to Byron L. Neimeyer, UASC:

I feel that you have done splendidly this year, under the circumstances, and I know that it is necessary for us to

spend a lot of money on repairs and paint. I hope that the increased business next year will make a better showing.

Will you please figure out what you have paid out for me in the way of advance to the carpenters and any other expenses.

(8) January 22, 1935, Thomas J. Allen, Jr., to Director, National Park Service, HOSP Central Files:

General repairs and painting of all portions of the building that have not received this during the past six months. The building in general is in fairly good maintenance condition and during the last few months the gradual program of painting has been engaged in. This program should be extended to include the entire building and to replace and repair all broken windows, regardless of whether they are on the front or rear elevations. The basement in particular needs considerable repair to the painting and plastering and this should be especially cared for.

All wall clocks throughout the house should be replaced with new ones. We understand that present clocks cannot be repaired.

(9) February 13, 1937, Byron L. Neimeyer to C. Powell Fordyce, UASC:

The flood has hurt our business, but we are running well [ahead] of every year since 1926, (the last figures I have been able to locate). Last year we were able to spend over \$4000.00, painting and repairing and we have the bathhouse looking real nice and hope to have money come back in increased patronage.

(10) November 4, 1937, Donald S. Libbey to Byron L. Neimeyer, HOSP Central Files:

The following recommendations were made by Mr. Ahern [Chief of the Safety Division of the National Park Service] concerning desired improvements in the Fordyce Bathhouse, which I feel you will be glad to follow and thereby insure increased safety for the patrons of your house:

- (1) Provide 2½-gallon soda-acid extinguishers:

2nd floor	2	(one in men's side one in women's side)
1st floor	2	
Basement	2	
- (2) Provide one 1-gallon pressure type carbontetrachloride extinguisher in basement at electrical relays for elevator.

- (3) Have general clean-up of basement and maintain the standard when established.

Please make a report concerning the improvements which you complete in accordance with the above recommendations. It appears that the improvements should be completed before the rush season begins soon after January first.

(11) July 18, 1938, C. Powell Fordyce to Byron L. Neimeyer, UASC: "Father wrote me not long ago saying that he didn't think that things were being kept as clean as they should. I hope that this condition has been changed. As we have the finest equipment in Hot Springs, we should maintain it in the best manner."

(12) August 15, 1952, Byron L. Neimeyer to Samuel W. Fordyce, III, UASC: "I think we are in good repair and with the regular fall painting, will be ready for Department inspection in 1953 for a new lease. The painting can be paid for out of daily receipts and does not require any money from the reserve fund."

(13) July 10, 1953, Donald S. Libbey to Byron L. Neimeyer, UASC:

Metal covers should be placed on all trash cans....  
Housekeeping very poor....

Metal lockers should be installed for the storage of paint and other inflammables. The soda-acid extinguisher in [the] paint room should be replaced with a CO<sub>2</sub> or foam type.

July 23, 1953, Byron L. Neimeyer to Donald S. Libbey, UASC: "Items corrected."

(14) June 15, 1954, Donald S. Libbey to Byron L. Neimeyer, UASC: "It is essential that guards be placed where visitors might come in contact with exposed radiators."

(15) September 17, 1954, Downs Fordyce to Byron L. Neimeyer, UASC: "When you first told me some of the items without saying how extensive the work or expense, it did sound big to me, too. I told Powell that the real expense would be the showers and steam cabinets. As I understood it, the heating and air conditioning are not necessary for the new lease."

(16) September 17, 1954, C. Powell Fordyce to Byron L. Neimeyer, UASC: "However, we feel that the things which save money (such as the automatic turn-off arrangement for the showers) and the things which benefit our customers (such as the air conditioning unit) are things which should be done first. Please secure bids on anything you can, so that we will know exactly what we are obligated for."

(17) February 27, 1957, Donald S. Libbey to Byron L. Neimeyer, HOSP Central Files:

Report of the Environmental Health Survey by the United States Public Health Service made in May 1956, has been evaluated by our Region One Office and the following comments made:

\*\*\*"Eliminate all submerged inlets where they presently occur in the Bathhouse plumbing and that flushometer toilets, where they occur or installed be equipped with vacuum breakers."\*\*\*\*

The following stated departures from the above were noted in your Bathhouse by the Jr. Sanitary Engineer Mr. Virgil L. Kropp, U.S. Public Health Service and are for correction as stated:

Location.	Fixture	Defect
1st floor (men)	Sitz tubs (4)	Submerged inlet (4)
" (women)	Bathtub (1)	Submerged inlet (1)
" "	Sitz bath (1)	" (1)
" "	Pack sink (1)	" (1)

3d floor,                      Hubbard tub (not used) Below rim hose connection (1)

(18) July 10-11, 1957, Fire and Safety Hazard Inspection, Charles R. McManus, inspector, UASC:

Broken windows in the following: four in women's bath hall; four in hydro. room; one each in men's bath hall, massage room and toilet. Paint was noted peeling from wall in men's cooling room and massage room. Plaster needs repaired in hall between lobby and bath hall....

Unnecessary accumulation of glass bottles noted in women's massage room.

Electrical cable armored with lead is in use in many places within the building. This type cable tends to short frequently, and it is draped on walls within the bath hall in such manner that bathers might touch it while emerging from bath. Such cable in women's bathing booth "F," men's booth "K," above sitz and vapor baths in women's bath hall, and in hydrotherapy room should be replaced wires encased in conduit.

Light fixture cord strung around wall in hydrotherapy room should be eliminated.



USPHS recommendations of May 1956, complied with except elimination of below rim hose connection in Hubbard tub. This installation, however, is not in use.

(19) July 17, 1958, Donald S. Libbey to Byron L. Neimeyer, UASC: "Repairs to paint and plaster through much of the structure needed, in the basement and office areas as well as public use areas; numerous multiple electric attachment plugs are in use throughout the building."

(20) May 18, 1962, Superintendent H. Raymond Gregg to C. Powell Fordyce, HOSP Central Files:

Another adverse factor is the deterioration of house-keeping and courteous efficient service; apparently the products of both material and supervisory neglect born of discouragement at the management level. This appears to have become internally self-generating to the point that, without improvement, patronage is certain to continue to fall off, with further loss of revenue in an already alarming situation.

I have the utmost personal regard for Mr. Neimeyer, but feel that his spirit of defeat is a liability to the Fordyce operation. In fairness, I must say that in the absence of sufficient revenue or additional capital for improvements and promotion, Mr. Neimeyer is doing about what any manager might be inclined to do -- merely drift along with the ebb-tide of business. However, even with the plant showing obsolescence, I am not convinced that aggressive management, diligently applied, could not substantially improve the position of the bathhouse through sharpening up of service, promotion of new business, and house-wide improvement in the field of customer relations.

I believe you stated in a previous letter you had recently provided \$1,000 for painting. Our inspections reflect no such expenditure. Patches of scaled paint on ceilings and walls recently were brushed down and spotted over with paint. Aside from the costs of regular staff labor which may have been charged against this work, it would be hard to see where more than \$100 could have been used, including \$25 worth of paint at most. The rest of the \$1,000 could be profitably employed in the most urgent rehabilitation items such as floor tiles that are in dangerous condition in places. It is surprising there have not been complaints of cut feet in the men's shower where the tiles are falling apart. Bright interior decoration and modern lighting of selected areas would do wonders in making the house attractive. Of course, this minimum effort would be of relatively short effect.

(21) May 22, 1962, Memorandum from H. Raymond Gregg to Byron L. Neimeyer, HOSP Central Files:

It has become necessary to call more than routine attention to reported unsatisfactory conditions in the Fordyce Bathhouse. These conditions tend to continue in spite of repeated reminders on regular inspection reports and routine communications.

The Fordyce also has failed on several occasions to acknowledge inspection reports as required when deficiencies have been noted. The following tabulation reflects this record for recent months:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Deficiencies</u>	<u>Report Acknowledged</u>
October 20, 1961	Yes	No
November 22, 1961	Yes	No
December 11, 1961	Yes	No
January 3, 1962	Yes	No
February 7, 1962	Yes	No
March 24, 1962	Yes	Yes
April 24, 1962	None listed	None required
May 15, 1962	Yes	Pending

(22) December 17, 1962, Superintendent Robert H. Atkinson to Harold Scherger, Scherger Chevrolet Sales, Huntington, Indiana, HOSP Central Files:

I have had the opportunity to check through our files on the Fordyce Bathhouse; however, I do not find a list of repairs that are needed. Throughout the correspondence with the manager, I have noticed reference to needs for interior painting, roof repairs, repairs to windows, cornices, etc., and repairs to the tile floor. Perhaps to this could be added the need for considerable house cleaning. I also suspect that there will be considerable need for repairs to the heating and electrical systems, since the building will have been closed for six months at the end of this year.

Paint. Determining paint colors for the bathhouse interior is problematic. Due to the warm, humid conditions prevalent in the bathhouse, many of the rooms were painted as frequently as every three or four years. So far, paint chip analysis has not conclusively revealed the original colors of interior spaces. A discussion of the paint analysis can be found in the Historic Structure Report (draft) by Randall Copeland. Purchases of paint appear frequently in the ledgers and financial reports, but color is rarely specified. The following evidence relates

to paint used generally in the interior. Information on colors used in particular rooms can be found in the evidence section for that room.

Correspondence indicates that during the construction of the bathhouse John Fordyce intended to postpone painting the interior to save money. The only rooms to be painted were the lobby and the assembly room, where white plaster would not have harmonized with the marble and woodwork. Colors for these rooms were not specified in the correspondence. The problems with the plaster discoloration, however, forced him to paint the entire interior before the bathhouse opened, and the newspapers reported in 1915 that the dressing rooms were painted apple green. Perhaps the other rooms were painted white, since a 1915 advertisement mentions that white enamel was used in the interior.

Since the bathhouse interior received only one coat of paint before it opened, a second coat was applied in 1918. Again, no colors were specified.

The only other clear indication of interior paint color is a 1961 receipt for "driftwood white" paint.

#### References:

(1) May 1915, Luxeberry News, Detroit, Michigan. Hudgins Scrapbook, item 3, p. 73, UASC: "The Klien Paint Company, of Hot Springs, did the decorating and Berry Brothers' Architectural Finishes, including Luxeberry White Enamel, was used in the interior finish--the material having been sold by Mr. Stanton."

(2) n.d. (probably 1915), Advertisement for O'Brien's Liquid Velvet Paint in Saturday Evening Post, p. 33, Hudgins Scrapbook, item 3, p. 93, UASC, lists the Fordyce Bathhouse as being decorated with O'Brien's Liquid Velvet.

(3) October 14, 1916, John F. Manier to the O'Brien Varnish Co., South Bend, Indiana, Letter reproduced at end of pamphlet, "Maintaining a Standard," (c.1916):

With reference to the use of "Liquid Velvet" on the walls and ceilings of the Fordyce Bathhouse, we assume you are aware that this establishment is situated upon the United States Reservation and is under Government supervision.



In the construction of the building all plans and specifications were first approved by the Department of the Interior at Washington, D.C.

Aside from the above mentioned requirement, it was the intention and request of the builder, Mr. S.W. Fordyce, to secure the very best material of all description that was to enter into its construction, regardless of cost.

With the above object in view, Liquid Velvet was decided upon as the acceptable material for use in the scheme of decoration for the interior walls and ceilings. The eighteen months that the House has been in operation has proven to our satisfaction, that we made no mistake in the selection of Liquid Velvet. All colors are soft and fast, and admired by the thousands of visitors that have viewed them.

(4) February 1916, "Expense Account," JRF: "3 whitewash brushes 1.50... Whitewash .75...Repainting sign .75...1/2# green paint .15..."

(5) May 13, 1940, Byron L. Neimeyer to C. Powell Fordyce, UASC: Expenditures listed for 1936 include "Stearns Hdw. Co. (Paint) 140.75" and "Stearns Hdw. Co. (Paint) 103.71."

(6) March 5, 1942, J. Lanier Byrd to C. Powell Fordyce, UASC: "We would recommend one coat of 'Moorwhite Primer' with either one or two coats of 'Outside White,' the formulas of both these items are enclosed and are first quality items...."

(7) March 6, 1942, C. Powell Fordyce to Byron L. Neimeyer, UASC:

I enclose herewith a letter from J. Lanier Byrd, one of my clients in Charleston, Missouri, who sells paint. If the prices quoted by Mr. Byrd are less than those that you have to pay in Hot Springs, I suggest that you send him a small order and try out his paint. If it works all right, then it seems to me that we ought to buy all of our paint from him, and lay in a reserve, assuming, of course, that we can save money by doing this. I have no interest in buying paint from Mr. Byrd unless we can save money on it. Moreover, Mr. Byrd is making this offer purely as an accommodation to me, and not particularly because he is anxious to sell us the paint.

(8) March 10, 1942, Byron L. Neimeyer to J. Lanier Byrd, UASC:

Mr. Powell Fordyce has forwarded us your letter in regard to our paint requirements. We are enclosing a label from a can of paint that we use on the inside walls of the



bathhouse. We would be pleased to have you ship us 10 gallons of your Benj. Moore paint, of a like quality (or better), the same color as called for on enclosed label.

We would like for you to also ship us five gallons of a good aluminum paint if possible, and four paint brushes 4" wide with 2 1/2" long bristles.

(9) 1942-1950 Ledger Sheets, UASC: Dollar figures are not comparable; some figures represent the cost of materials alone, and some represent the cost of materials and labor. Expenditures include: 1942, "paint and tile repairs, materials and labor to repair both halls and dressing rooms. Annually we paint different rooms of the interior of bathhouse to meet own and Dept. of Interior standards," \$832.39; 1943, "bath halls and dressing rooms -- ordinary annual expenditure," \$453.47; 1944, "upper floor -- rooms repainted," \$520.36; 1945, "painting of lobby and halls of bathhouse," \$763.41; 1946, "paint over repair to break in plaster in bath halls, waterproofing one wall of outside of building," \$319.48; 1947, "painting nearly all of inside of building," \$969.12; 1948, "paint and materials used to renew walls and ceiling not done year before," \$1,023.39; 1949, "paint used in finishing walls," \$768.84; 1950, "paint," \$422.27.

(10) March 8, 1961, Receipt from the Sherwin-Williams Co., 827 Central Avenue, Hot Springs (charge sale, signed for by Archie Terry), UASC: "Bulk Thinner 1 gal [and] Paint Brush 1½" (1)."

(11) March 25, 1961, Receipt from the Sherwin-Williams Co., 827 Central Avenue, Hot Springs (credit slip to correct overcharge), UASC: "Billed -- 2 gal. Driftwood white @ 7.15 should be [gal. Driftwood white] @ 4.90."

Miscellaneous. The following items are peripherally associated with the furnishings of the Fordyce.

#### References:

(1) June 24, 1915, Samuel W. Fordyce to Hamp Williams, JRF:

I am advised by the wife of Jack Manier that she purchased a Ford automobile for me which I don't think has been paid for. I would like very much if you would send me a bill made out against the Fordyce Bathhouse for this machine. Give me all the discount you can and I will send you a check for the amount of your bill.

(2) January 7, 1916, John F. Manier to Samuel W. Fordyce, JRF:

[Purchases made in December 1915]

set of Ford wires	)		.60
1 #2587 Ford set	)		.30
6 #2519 " part	)		1.50
1 #2520 " "	)		2.00
1 " "	)	Auto Supplies	.85
1 " Timer cap)			.90
1 prestolite	)		2.75
2 brake shoes	)		.80

(3) January 31, 1916, John F. Manier to Samuel W. Fordyce, JRF:

I write to ask your opinion or approval upon entering into a contract with the Citizens Electric Company about as follows:

They desire to establish and maintain a system that they term "Flood Lighting," which consists of three very strong electric lights with reflectors something on the order of a flashlight, which will be installed upon the roof of a building across the street from the bathhouse, which will light up the bathhouse at night, making it stand out in bold relief. For this service, they require a contract for one year at the rate of \$18.00 per month. And, if the contract continues the second year, they will give us a rate of \$12.00 per month.

They inform me that they have already ordered lights to be used for the same purpose at the Maurice, and they have already erected this system for the Arkansas Trust Co.

These lights will illuminate the entire front and side of the building from dusk until 11 P.M. Personally, I think it is a great advertisement. However, their rate seems a trifle high, but they explain that the lights being of such high wattage, that they consume themselves each month and as each light costs approximately \$4.00, and three lights would be necessary to illuminate our house, that there would be little profit, if any, for them considering the installation and furnishing the electricity. Then too, they will embody in the contract a clause which will give us the benefit of any reduction which it will be possible for them to make under this initial cost.

(4) February 2, 1916, Samuel W. Fordyce to John F. Manier, JRF: "This in reply to yours of the 31st. Of course if you think it would be a good thing for the Bathhouse, you may enter into the contract with the

Public Utilities Company to do certain lighting at the rate of \$18.00 per month for the first year, etc."

(5) n.d. (probably c.1916), Photograph (figure 2) of Fordyce Exterior, floodlit, from "The Edison Builder," Hudgin's Scrapbook, Item 3, p. 92, UASC: The following text accompanied the photograph.

Flood Lighting of Famous  
Baths

The photographs shown herewith are reproduced through the kindness of Mr. S.E. Dillon of the Citizens Electric Company, Hot Springs, Arkansas. They illustrate the Maurice and Fordyce bathhouses on the Government Reservation in that city. Each building front is lighted from across the street, by three G-E Form L-1 flood lighting projectors, each equipped with a 500-watt EDISON MAZDA C flood lighting lamp. They illustrate very clearly the beautiful effects that can be produced by this popular method of illumination. In no other way can the details of an artistic building be brought out as effectively.

(6) June 10, 1918, John F. Manier to Col. Samuel W. Fordyce, EF:

When the bathhouse opened you instructed to purchase a car to be used as a vehicle for the guests of the Fordyce and friends, and to take people out around the city [and] assist them in getting located, etc. For this purpose a Ford car was purchased, used, and maintained by the bathhouse from March 1915 to about August 1917. At this time the Ford was working badly having been used over two years.

At that time as you are aware I was Agent for the Chalmers Car, and sold a Chalmers to DR. E.H. Martin, securing in part payment Dr. Martins old car, and I traded both of these cars (the Ford and the Martin car) for the Oakland car, which has since been used for the same purpose and in the same manner as the Ford.

(7) May 12, 1919, John F. Manier to Maj. John R. Fordyce, EF:

Confirming our conversation relative to the exchange of motor cars:--You recall when the bathhouse opened a Ford car was supplied as part of the equipment, and was used for a little over two years, at which time I traded same in together with an Oakland Coupe, (which I secured from Dr. Martin as my commission on the sale of a new Chalmers Sedan to Dr. Martin) for a five passenger Oakland car. This Oakland car is now practically worn out, and the maintenance and repairs neccessary justifies the disposal of same.



Mrs. Manier informed me that she suggested trading same in on a new Dodge Sedan, and that you approved this action, suggesting that the additional funds necessary to make the trade be absorbed in some appropriate account in the bathhouse expenditures, from time to time, so as not [to] have the whole amount to apply at one time. This you confirmed to me over [the] phone. However it is neccessary that funds be provided to pay cash balance in full upon delivery of the car, and it will be necessary to make a note for the balance in full, say for one or two years, and then lay an appropriate sum aside from month to month to retire the note when it falls due.

The trade that was made is as follows:--

New Dodge Sedan..F.O.B. Hot Springs..	\$1,900.00
Allowance by Oakland.....	\$ 500.00
Cash balance.....	1400.00
	<u>1900.00</u>

The above price includes all war tax etc.

(8) May 16, 1919, John F. Manier to Maj. John R. Fordyce, EF:

This acknowledges receipt of your personal check which will be applied as instructed when the machine arrives at which time will be executed the note and lien forwarded to you as per your instructions. Many thanks to you for handling the matter in this manner.

[The attachment states that] this note being secured by a lien on a Dodge Sedan Motor Car, and said lien is hereby acknowledged by the undersigned.

(9) April 17, 1926, John R. Fordyce to John R. Fordyce, Jr., UASC:

We need some new decorations for the Bathhouse and it occurred to me that a series of Naval Signals would make a splendid decoration. I wish you would see what two sets of Naval Signal flags would cost. I believe that there are a lot of them that are surplus and that you can probably get them very cheap at some of the Army and Navy stores. If you can, buy two sets and send them to me and draw on the Bathhouse for the money.

(10) October 3, 1927, Joseph Bolten to All Bathhouse Managers, UASC:

Your attention is called to the fact that the flag of the United States is to be used in decorating the buildings only on national holidays and on such days as orders are issued from the office of the Superintendent. Flags shall not be put up at the request of the Chamber of Commerce or any other organization except the National Park Service.



(11) June 1, 1928, Joseph Bolten to All Bath House Managers, UASC:

Your attention is called to the proper method of displaying the United States flag, when used as a decoration on your buildings. It appears that the flags are hung any way and are not in accordance with the rules governing the flag, as issued by the American Legion. Inasmuch as the flags are hung from five to seven times during the year, it is requested that proper attention be given in the future to the draping of the flag on your buildings. The following are the rules for the use of the flag:

First: The flag should be displayed from sunrise to sunset only.

Second: When a flag is placed on the building other than on a staff -- whether indoors or out -- the Union should be uppermost, and to the flag's right. In other words, when a person looks at the flag, it should be to the observer's left. The blue field must always be to the left of the observer.

Third: On Memorial Day, the flag is displayed when on the flagpole, at half mast from sunrise until noon, and then at full mast from noon to sunset.

Fourth: When the flag is in such condition that it is no longer fit for display, it should be destroyed by burning, so that it cannot be used for any other purpose save that for which it was originally intended.

I trust that these rules will be studied so that there will be a proper display of the National Emblem at all times.

(12) 1959, Audit Report compiled by Russell Brown & Co., UASC: Under the heading "Funds Applied To," the "Purchase of new flood lights 147.42" is listed.

(13) February 12, 1960, Byron L. Neimeyer to C. Powell Fordyce, UASC: "I talked to Supt. Gregg this morning and he said he would approve of an application of ours, to add the \$864.17 spent for floor lighting and water cooler tank in year 1959, to our authorized expenditure deposit requirements. I will write him for this authorization."

(14) February 23, 1960, Manager, Fordyce Bathhouse, to Raymond Gregg, UASC:

From our 1959 audit report, The Fordyce Bathhouse installed outside flood lighting at a cost of \$147.42, and in addition a new 50 gallon water cooler tank at a cost of \$716.75. A total of \$864.17.

These are capital expenditures made by the operating fund in year 1959. We believe the amount of \$864.17 should qualify as authorized expenditure to apply against our deposit requirements of the Department of [the] Interior.

(15) 1961, Audit Report compiled by Russell Brown & Co., Schedule "1," UASC: Expenditures under the heading "Machinery and Equipment" include 1959, "flood lighting," \$147.42 and 1961, "22" power mower," \$48.36.

(16) January 26, 1962, H. Raymond Gregg to Byron L. Neimeyer (regarding the rehabilitation reserve), UASC:

The following expenditures against this fund have been authorized:

1956 Flood Damage	\$1,817.43	
Installation of Flood		
Lights - 1959	147.42	
Replacement of Water		
Cooler Tank - 1959	<u>716.75</u>	\$2,681.60

#### Basement

Several rooms in the basement (B12, B13, B16, and B17) contain machinery responsible for the operation of the bathhouse. References to this machinery can seldom be pinpointed to one particular room; therefore, these references are grouped together. The spaces for the attendants' quarters (B08 and B10), the bowling alley (B02), and the Fordyce spring (B04) are treated separately.

Machinery and Boiler Room, Fan Room, and Boiler Rooms (B16, B17, B12, and B13). These rooms contained the machinery that heated and ventilated the building and circulated the hot and cold water. The original mechanism for cooling the water involved blowing cool air through iron coils containing hot spring water. The intention was to heat the air for the building while cooling the water for the baths. Unfortunately, this elegant idea failed in its execution because the water, which emerged from the spring at approximately 140°F, could not be cooled enough to be used in the baths. An additional cooling tower built on the roof of the bathhouse solved the problem.

The cooling tower, however, could not cool the water enough to be used in certain hydrotherapy treatments. Therefore, in 1915-16, the Fordyce management installed a small refrigerating plant in the basement. This plant also provided cold drinking water for the patrons. By 1940 this system no longer functioned, but some of the machinery was reused during the installation of a new circulating ice water system.

Over the years, the basements of the Fordyce and other bathhouses became untidy and cluttered with old furniture, broken machinery, and other objects. The park superintendent frequently encouraged the bathhouses to clean these areas. Basements along Bathhouse Row were flooded whenever Hot Springs Creek overflowed. The superintendent's inspection report after the 1956 flood criticized the bathhouse managers for using their basements as "catchalls."

#### References:

(1) February 10, 1915, Eugene J. Stern to Dr. William P. Parks, HOSP Central Files: During construction of the building, the "Pump, strainer, and motor moved to room next to plenum chamber."

(2) February 1915, Hot Springs New Era, February 27, 1915, p. 3, and Sentinel-Record, February 28, 1915, section 2, p. 1: "Here also [in the basement] is located the complete mechanical equipment, including the heating and ventilating machinery, cooling fans and attendants' quarters."

(3) n.d. (probably 1915), probably a press release, William H. Deaderick Miscellaneous Papers, Hot Springs National Park, p. 5:

The heating, ventilating and plumbing apparatus of the building are all the latest improved and the finest of the kind to be had.

The air in all of the rooms is being constantly changed. The incoming air is washed, filtered and heated, and it drives out the foul air and all odors, as it enters the rooms. The temperatures in each room is maintained by a most ingenious device called a thermostat. This is set at the desired temperature and any variation, however slight, is corrected by the automatic movement of a damper located in the basement. The incoming cold air is tempered by passing it over iron coils filled with natural hot water. As this water as it comes from the spring is at too high a temperature for bathing, this



loss of heat to the air is an advantage, as large quantities of water have to be cooled every day. Two large Scotch Marine boilers, heated by natural gas, furnish steam for heating coils and radiators installed in various parts of the house.

(4) July 1917, Statement and Trial Balance, Fordyce Bathhouse, prepared by John F. Manier, Arkansas History Commission: "Supplying Fly screens on windows of Ladies Bath Room and three basement windows, where none had here-to-fore been."

(5) March 1, 1920, Hudgins Scrapbook, Item 3, p. 125, unknown newspaper:

Thousands of gallons of the Hot Radio-Active waters can be seen to belch and bubble from subterranean depths into coils leading to the fountains and baths above. Cold water for tempering the douches, spray, needle, showers and other baths is secured by means of an ice machine located in the basement, where the boiling water can be turned to an icy temperature without permitting exposure to the air. This assures patrons ice cold water containing all the original gases of its natural state.

(6) November 23, 1920, John R. Fordyce to John F. Manier, EF: "Enclosed please find proposition of installing oil furnace under our heating boiler. The first proposition for \$1525.00 is the one I should think we should accept with the understanding that the oil furnace people are to purchase the reducing valve and pump."

(7) c.1925-30, "Health Awaits You at the Fordyce Baths," p. 13-14, HOSP: "Cold water for the tempering of the douches, sprays, needle and other baths is secured by means of a refrigerator plant, which turns the hot water to a cooler temperature."

(8) December 16, 1931, C.C. Schrader Plumbing and Heating Co. to John R. Fordyce, HOSP:

We agree to furnish all labor and material necessary to install the following:

1 -- Johnson Oil Burner

Make present hot water tank into oil tank

We guaranteed this burner to operate [satisfactorily] and to be of sufficient size for your building. All for the net sum of Three Hundred and Eighty Nine Dollars (\$389.00).

(9) December 19, 1931, John R. Fordyce to C.C. Schrader, HOSP:

Yours of the 16th. Your price of \$389.00 seems to me very much out of line. You told me that you would sell



me the burner for \$200.00, and I do not see why it would take so much money to install thirty-five or forty [feet of] pipe. Will you please explain.

Perhaps I could get our engineer to do the greater part of the work.

(10) June 18, 1932, Thomas J. Allen, Jr., to Manager Elizabeth M. Gibson, UASC:

The annual inspection of your building for fire precaution purposes reveals the fact that your basement and engine room are in extremely untidy condition and that waste materials and combustible matter have not been kept cleaned up....

You are requested...to repair electric wiring in the basement.

(11) August 27, 1934, Memorandum from George C. Bolton to Thomas J. Allen, Jr. (regarding inspection of Fordyce prior to lease renewal), HOSP Central Files:

Basement -- Inspection discloses that there is a bit of seepage from the rear walls. This condition has existed for a long while but there might be a danger of its continuance to the main foundations. Cracks showing in plaster on first floor show that there is a tendency to settle....

Painting and plastering throughout is needed in this basement to bring it up to standard. It is noted that the concrete work in overhead supporting beams to the first floor appear to be of an inferior grade of concrete work....

(12) March 15, (probably 1940), calendar entry, probably Byron Neimeyer, UASC:

FRIDAY, MARCH 15

Jack Fordyce [John R., Jr.] was here and we discussed the advisability of installing a circulating ice water system in the bathhouse -- we have part of the equipment needed, some that is in the basement from [the] old system that was placed here when house was built -- We decided to get estimates and if not too expensive we would have it installed. It would be quite nice to have and a convenience for the help and guests.

(13) April 27, (probably 1940), calendar entry, probably Byron L. Neimeyer, UASC:

SATURDAY, APRIL 27

Jack was here today with refrigeration engineer and we all went over the house and engineer will get up plans & specification for bids on installing an ice water system for entire house -- also inspected for installing a better cooling system -- decided a large attic fan in top of elevator shaft would help a lot -- also to have openings over elevator doors and adjustable openings to admit air from desired places to be cooled.

(14) June 18, 1940, John R. Fordyce, Jr., to Byron L. Neimeyer, UASC: "Win Kellogg advised he had sent to the Bathhouse two different types of water faucets for the ice water system, he ask you to let him know immediately with which faucet you wished him to complete the order. This is very important as the system itself cannot be completed until we have faucet for outlet."

(15) June 19, 1940, Byron L. Neimeyer to John R. Fordyce, Jr., UASC:

I have just talked to Selle Equipment Company's man on the phone and he said he would call Win Kellogg and give him our message in regard to [the] number of faucets we need.

I asked that he tell Win that we need 1 more wall type faucet and 5 more regular type (not wall type). These are in addition to the two faucets that were sent over as samples.

(16) June 29, (probably 1940), calendar entry, probably Byron L. Neimeyer, UASC: "SATURDAY, JUNE 29. Jack Fordyce was here today and inspected the bathhouse and we showed him progress we had made on the new circulating Ice water system -- he made some suggestions in regard to system and we will follow them."

(17) December 6, 1946, Byron L. Neimeyer to Thomas Boles, UASC: "We have had delivered today three fire extinguishers and the employees who work in and out of the basement state that they are familiar with their operation...."

(18) June 15, 1954, Donald S. Libbey to Byron L. Neimeyer, (Annual Inspection of Fire Hazards), UASC:

It is recommended that in all bathhouses where basement access doors open into that portion of the bathhouse where visitors are being given service that these doors be kept closed at all times to prevent the possibility of

flash fires, or noxious gases, rising from the area of possible danger into the occupied portions of the bathhouse.

(19) August 9, 1954, Donald S. Libbey to Byron L. Neimeyer (regarding results of inspection of Fordyce prior to lease renewal), HOSP Central Files:

7 -- Consideration should be given to the removal of the antiquated and unnecessary pumps and tanks. When removed, adequate space for a shipshape engineer's work room could be available.

8 -- Storage room facilities for inflammable materials, soaps detergents should be provided so that good house-keeping practices may prevail. Metal cabinets for storage of mops, cleaning materials and solutions should be provided.

(20) December 10, 1954, Donald S. Libbey to Byron L. Neimeyer, HOSP Central Files: "Also your inability to accomplish the removal of the antiquated and unnecessary pumps in your basement is a matter which you may accomplish in the future when you secure available purchasers for such equipment."

(21) April 18, 1956, Donald S. Libbey to Byron L. Neimeyer, UASC:

In recent inspection of your basement to ascertain how the required rehab work has been accomplished in your bathhouse it is gratifying to find that there was evidence to show that some real work had been done to bring your basement up to required standard.

It was seen that Mr. Terry had done a great job in getting things shipshape again.

There appeared to be some old seats or chairs standing around, possibly used by employees, which should be replaced with more modern equipment.

(22) April 19, 1956, Memorandum from Donald S. Libbey to All Bathhouse Managers, UASC:

Recent inspection of basements of bathhouses on Bathhouse Row prompts this communication.

In addition to the mud, sand, and other storm debris coming into the basements through flooding, the situation was aggravated by old equipment and materials stored there. In the future management will be more circumspect and diligent in seeing that their basements are not used as a catchall and storage for all old and unserviceable equipment or materials.

It was noted that most any and all the old equipment such as chairs, cots and miscellaneous, improvised massage tables, brought from other sections of the bathhouses had very little if any future value even should it be possible to make indicated repairs. Most of this equipment has been amortized and should be written off inventories and disposed of by carting it away as junk. Surely, it must not be stored in the basements.

There was a multiplicity of miscellaneous other equipment such as clocks, electrical equipment, scales, water-coolers, etc., which are plain junk and must be gotten rid of....

It is also suggested that in the purchase of paint supplies that only enough be obtained to do the job at hand as to set away in storage small amounts of paint in their cans only creates additional fire hazard. The paint becomes crusted over and is unfit for use when again needed. Paint brushes should be properly cleansed and stored. This is valuable equipment and with proper care may be used again and again.

The handyman or engineer's section should be neat and in order at all times. This includes the workbench. Small supplies such as bolts, nuts, screws, gaskets and gasket materials, small plumbing supplies, tools of all kinds, should have a place for safekeeping and kept there when not in use. It would appear that valuable tools such as wrenches of all kinds, pliers, hammers, compressors for paint machines, etc., can suffer rapid depreciation and easily become unaccounted for through the habit of leaving them scattered around after their usage on the last job. Improvised cuspidors and ashtrays should be disposed of and regular units of such small equipment be obtained.

Garbage receptacles must be kept clean at all times. Some such receptacles noticed seemed to not have been emptied recently and even in those cases where emptying was indicated not much attention was being paid to the cleansing of the interiors of the receptacles in question. Such conditions breed insects and other vermin.

(23) July 17, 1958, Donald S. Libbey to Byron L. Neimeyer (Annual Inspection of Fire and Safety Hazards), UASC, lists "one broken window in boiler room."



Attendants' Rooms (B08 and B10). The attendants' rooms were situated in a dark corner of the basement and were probably uncomfortably hot most of the time because of the hot water reservoir located beneath the basement floor. A vague reference by Architect Eugene Stern to lowering the attendants' room to the same level as the lobby cannot be explained, because newspaper accounts from 1915 also place these rooms in the basement.

Like other parts of the bathhouse not visited by the general public, the attendants' rooms rapidly became run down and untidy. Although targeted for improvement several times, the rooms were badly located and the bathhouse management appeared reluctant to expend much money rehabilitating them.

#### References:

(1) February 10, 1915, Eugene J. Stern to Dr. William P. Parks, HOSP Central Files. In the list of changes made during construction is this enigmatic item: "Attendants Room lowered to same level as Public Lobby."

(2) February 1920, Statement and Trial Balance, Fordyce Bathhouse, prepared by John F. Manier, EF, lists "Betterments consists of... extra wardrobe lockers for servants."

(3) June 18, 1932, Thomas J. Allen, Jr., to the Manager, Fordyce, UASC: "Also the attendants' quarters have a considerable amount of old paper lying around."

(4) August 27, 1934, Memorandum from George C. Bolton to Thomas J. Allen (regarding inspection of Fordyce prior to lease renewal), HOSP Central Files: "The attendants' quarters are badly located and do not allow of much improvement with the exception of perhaps new plastering."

(5) January 22, 1935, Memorandum from Thomas J. Allen, Jr., to Director, National Park Service (regarding the renewal of Fordyce lease), HOSP Central Files:

Improvement of the attendants' quarters. These quarters are in poor condition and a great deal could be done to improve them. If it is desired by the company to remove the old bowling alleys from the basement, the space so obtained could be used for attendants' quarters but in this case the practice of using the spring which originates in the bathhouse basement as a display for visitors

would have to be discontinued. If it is not desired to use the bowling alleys space for new attendants' quarters, then the existing quarters need a general overhaul and repair and painting.

(6) August 17, 1952, Lillian Fordyce to Byron L. Neimeyer, UASC:

Downs...made a suggestion that I think a good one -- if we can do it; is to make the basement rest rooms for the attendants more comfortable and attractive. Could we use some of our surplus furniture down there? Does it need painting? Have we a spare cot or two so they wouldn't have to stretch out on boxes as they do now? Seems to me a small sum might be a good idea. Let me know what you think.

(7) November 18, 1952, Byron L. Neimeyer to Lillian Fordyce, UASC: "We can make the attendants' quarters more comfortable and attractive without too much expense and will start working on it when we are not too busy and in process of renovation."

(8) August 9, 1954, Donald S. Libbey to Byron L. Neimeyer (results of inspection prior to lease renewal), HOSP Central Files:

5 -- The rooms for both the men and women's quarters -- dressing rooms and related facilities -- appear in need of modernization, rehabilitation, etc., in order to present more satisfactory working conditions. Adequate ventilation through use of exhaust fans appears desirable. This will be conducive to good employee morale.

(9) September 4, 1954, Byron L. Neimeyer to C. Powell Fordyce, UASC: Recommends removing bowling alleys and using space for attendants' rooms.

(10) April 18, 1956, Donald S. Libbey to Byron L. Neimeyer, UASC: "The attendant's quarters could stand a bit more paint and the ventilation thereto given some attention in advance of the coming warm weather."

(11) April 19, 1956, Memorandum from Donald S. Libbey to All Bathhouse Managers, UASC:

Attendants' quarters should have the regular attention and inspection by management in order that they be kept clean and habitable. Proper ventilation in these areas is imperative. It should be efficient at all times and more especially so during the warmer months. These quarters must be adequately and comfortably heated during the period when such is needed....

Bowling Alley (B02). Although newspaper accounts boast of two standard bowling alleys, correspondence from 1941-2 indicates that the alleys were less than full size.

Shortly after the bathhouse opened, a disagreement arose over who would be allowed to bowl at the Fordyce. The superintendent of Hot Springs park believed that only "bona fide bathers" should be allowed to bowl. The managers of the Fordyce were usually much more liberal about granting individuals that privilege. During the late twenties and early thirties the managers partially solved the problem by extending bowling privileges to the superintendent, the other bathhouse managers, and a few others. However, various parties in Hot Springs continued to claim that the bowling alleys in the Fordyce posed unfair competition, both to other bathhouses and to the public bowling alley. A full discussion of this issue is contained in the Analysis of Historic Occupancy.

By the mid 1930s, the bowling alley was already falling into disrepair. Beginning in 1934, a variety of other uses was proposed for the space occupied by the alleys, including new attendants' rooms and a laundry.

By 1954, the bowling alley was considered obsolete, and in the Park Service inspection report issued prior to lease renewal in 1954, the superintendent recommended that the installation be removed. The actual date of the alleys' removal is unknown.

#### References:

- (1) December 19, 1914, John R. Fordyce to Samuel W. Fordyce, JRF: "The bowling alley man is on the ground and putting up the bowling alley in the basement. He thinks he will be done in the course of a week."
- (2) Probably 1915, probably a press release, William H. Deaderick Miscellaneous Papers, Hot Springs National Park, p. 4: "Another amusement has been provided to help the convalescent pass the time. In the basement are two standard bowling alleys which are free to the bathers. All of these things are provided to try and help the visitor solve the problem of what to do with his spare time."



(3) February 28, 1915, Arkansas Gazette, p. 7: "In the basement are two standard bowling alleys which are free to the bathers."

(4) February 27, 1915, Hot Springs New Era, p. 3, and Sentinel-Record, section 2, p. 1: "In this basement will be found two regulation bowling alleys fully equipped."

(5) December 2, 1915, John F. Manier to Col. Samuel W. Fordyce, National Archives, RG-79 900-5, pt. 1, p. 2:

Shortly after our bathhouse was opened, I took the liberty of inviting a few of my personal friends, who are citizens of Hot Springs, to join me in a game of ten pins. Several days after this party, the Superintendent requested me to call at his office, and told me that this matter should not occur again, as he was of the opinion that the bowling alley was for the use of bona fide bathers only.

(6) January 7, 1916, John F. Manier to Samuel W. Fordyce, JRF:

[Purchased by Bathhouse in December 1915]			
2 sets	Bowling Alley Pins		7.00
2 gallons	"	Cleaner	1.50
1 "	"	Polish	.75
1000	"	Score Sheets	2.50
1 gross	"	Chalk Crayon	1.20

(7) February 1916, "Expense Account," JRF:

[Purchased from Brunswick-Balke Callender (?) Co.]			
5 gal. can	Enamel Polish		3.00
6"	L.V. Bowling Ball		1.25
6½"	"	"	1.50
7"	"	"	2.00

(8) 1917, "Statement of Business of the Fordyce Bathhouse for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1917," Arkansas History Commission: "Miscellaneous Expense is for Office Supplies, Printing, Telephone, Bowling Alley etc. In fact all expense not Itemized above."

(9) 1918, Statement and Trial Balance, Fordyce Bathhouse, prepared by John F. Manier, EF, indicates that in January 1918, \$53.00 was spent on the bowling alleys and in October 1918, \$10.45 was spent on "Bowling Alley equipment."

(10) June 30, 1918, "Transcript of Original Investment Cost of the Fordyce Bathhouse as Shown on Ledgers, Pages 146-147," HOSP: As of June 30, 1918, \$970.41 had been spent on the bowling alley.



(11) January 26, 1928, Joseph Bolten to H.H. Julian, HOSP Central Files:

Referring to previous conversations relative to the use of the Fordyce alleys by unauthorized persons or persons who are not bathing at the Fordyce Bathhouse, you are advised that on and after this date, no person is permitted to bowl in the Fordyce unless he is a regular patron bathing at the Fordyce Bathhouse. Persons who have been authorized by this office to bowl may also bowl on these alleys.

The following persons are authorized to bowl [at] the Fordyce. Although they are not bona fide bathers at the Fordyce:

Mr. Omar Wilson, Manager of the Hale Bathhouse;  
Mr. E. L. Howlett, Manager of the Quapaw Bathhouse;  
Mr. G. K. Hogaboom, Manager of the Buckstaff Bathhouse;  
Mr. B. D. Rapley, Manager of the Imerpial Bathhouse;  
Mr. G. C. Arnoux, Radio Announcer from KTHS;  
Major Harley J. Hallet, of the Army and Navy Hospital;  
Mr. A. R. Smith, Editor of the Official Bulletin;  
Mr. Gus Borland, of the Borland Drug Store;  
Mr. G. C. Bolten, and Dr. Joseph S. Bolten, of the Superintendent's Office.

Please guard against unauthorized bowling on these alleys, inasmuch as we have had a number of complaints, and it is not desired to take the matter up with the Director again.

(12) September 23, 1932, Elizabeth M. Gibson to Thomas J. Allen, Jr., HOSP Central Files:

For several years past it has been the custom of the managers along Bathhouse Row to make use of the Fordyce Bowling Alleys at least once and sometimes twice a week.

For some reason the alleys were not made use of last winter and I would like to extend to you, and through you to the managers on the Row, a most cordial invitation to once more spend an afternoon or two a week with us. I am having the floor at the upper end of the alleys repaired and will have it in readiness shortly after the first of the month.

If you all will accept our invitation I will be glad to see that the score charts are on hand and a pin boy ready whenever he is needed.

(13) August 27, 1934, Memorandum from George C. Bolton to Thomas J. Allen (regarding inspection of Fordyce prior to lease renewal), HOSP Central Files: "There is a bowling alley here of two alleys which is out of repair and not used. I would recommend that these alleys be taken out and the space used for attendants' quarters, using the present space occupied by these quarters as storage space."

(14) January 22, 1935, Thomas J. Allen, Jr., to Director, National Park Service (regarding inspection of Fordyce prior to lease renewal), HOSP Central Files: "If it is desired by the company to remove the old bowling alleys from the basement, the space so obtained could be used for attendants' quarters...."

(15) December 17, 1941, Albert F. Keeney to Harold L. Ickes, Secretary, Department of the Interior, National Archives, RG-79 900-05, pt 3:

They advertise a bowling alley but it is a misrepresentation as it is not a standard alley. I do not think it has been leveled up since it was first installed many years ago. They have four or five balls, all very ancient vintage and they call that a bowling alley. A real estate friend and myself tried to roll on one of the two alleys and it was simply impossible.

(16) January 9, 1942, Superintendent Preston P. Patraw to the Director, National Park Service, National Archives, RG-79, 900-05, pt. 3:

As Mr. Keeney states, the bowling alley is not a standard length alley and its condition is not first class. Upon calling this to the attention of the management, it was promptly taken care of and is now in good condition. The bowling alley was installed, I believe, at the time the house was constructed. There is not sufficient space for a full length alley and it does not purport to be a standard alley. It is available only for the use of the patrons of the bathhouse and no charge is made for its use.

(17) May 29, 1943, Acting Director, National Park Service, Hillory A. Tolson to Superintendent Hot Springs National Park, HOSP Central Files:

Reference is made to your memorandum of May 13 and to the memorandum of May 19 of Regional Director Tillotson, concerning the application of the Fordyce Bathhouse to construct a laundry in the basement of the bathhouse building in the space heretofore occupied by the bowling alleys....

While this policy relates specifically to the sale of commodities, the same principle has been applied invari-

ably heretofore in connection with such services as are ordinarily furnished and are readily available in the city of Hot Springs.

It is believed that this policy should be continued and you should advise the Fordyce Bathhouse that the request for permission to construct a laundry in the basement of the bathhouse building is not approved.

(18) n.d., probably c.1939-1943, Photograph (figure 8) from "Life Begins at the Fordyce," p. 7, HOSP Curatorial File.

(19) August 9, 1954, Donald S. Libbey to Byron L. Neimeyer (regarding results of inspection of Fordyce prior to lease renewal), HOSP Central Files: "1 -- The obsolete bowling alley installation should be removed and the basement space thereby released be available for more suitable bathhouse use."

(20) September 4, 1954, Byron L. Neimeyer to C. Powell Fordyce, UASC:

Item 1 on their list is the removal of the bowling alleys. They are quite obsolete, would be expensive to put in a good condition and maintain. The alleys have not been very much of a drawing feature for prospective bathers. Also we would like the space for more adequate employees' quarters and possibly future laundry installation.

(21) September 10, 1954, C. Powell Fordyce to Byron L. Neimeyer, UASC: "Do you think that Mr. Libbey would allow us to eliminate the removal of the bowling alley and substitute the installation of heating and air conditioning units?"

(22) September 14, 1954, Byron L. Neimeyer to C. Powell Fordyce, UASC: "Mr. Libbey said we could eliminate his suggestion (Item 1), regarding the removal of the bowling alley. We have been unable to get an offer on the alleys but did find a man who would take them out at no expense to us. After your letter I will leave them in their place."

(23) September 17, 1954, Downs Fordyce to Byron L. Neimeyer, UASC: "Of course there is no comparison between the bowling alley and the heating plant or air conditioner. If your man will take it out for nothing, it is certainly to our advantage to clear that area. I'd say go ahead."

(24) September 17, 1954, C. Powell Fordyce to Byron L. Neimeyer, UASC: "I have received your recent letter in which you say that Mr. Libbey does not insist on removing the bowling alley. If we can do this job without any expense to us, or with a very small expenditure, none of us have any objections to removing it."



The Fordyce Spring. While excavating the foundation for the Fordyce Bathhouse, workers discovered a new hot spring with a temperature of approximately 140°F. The spring was named after Samuel W. Fordyce, enclosed with glass, and turned into a tourist attraction in the bathhouse basement.

Having a hot spring in the basement was a powerful drawing card. Those bathhouses fortunate enough to have springs in the basement always advertised them. The Maurice, the Superior, the New Imperial, and the Quapaw bathhouses all boasted this feature. The bathhouses went to great lengths to prevent the hot spring water from being exposed to the air, which would dissipate its natural radioactive properties. The "magical" healing quality of the water was often attributed to this radioactivity.

#### References:

- (1) c.1914, Hudgins Scrapbook, item 3, "New Hot Spring is Found Today," unknown newspaper:

While digging the foundation of the Palace Bathhouse, workmen this afternoon unearthed a new hot spring, which shot a stream of boiling hot water three feet into the air.

The new spring, which remained hidden in a large rock, was located on the south side of the site. Its capacity is estimated at 24,000 gallons per day. The temperature showed the new spring to be 135 degrees. The longer it flows the hotter the water becomes.

This spring has no connection with the old spring that supplied the Palace with water, but is an entirely new spring, indicating the truth of the statement that the world-famous healing water is unlimited here.

- (2) February 10, 1915, Eugene J. Stern to Dr. William P. Parks, HOSP Central Files. The "Spring Room changed" during construction of the Fordyce.

- (3) February 27, 1915, Hot Springs New Era, p. 3:

The most attractive feature in the basement is the enormous hot water spring which was developed while excavating. It is known as "The Fordyce Spring," and regis-



tered by the government as "Spring No. 46," with a temperature of approximately 140 degrees F. This is covered with glass so patrons and visitors can see the hot water as it bursts bubbling from the earth.

(4) February 28, 1915, Sentinel-Record, section 2, p. 1, adds: "...and enters the coils en route to the tanks, and on to the tubs, without being exposed to the air, thus, losing none of its radioactive properties."

(5) 1916, Cutter's Guide to Hot Springs, p. 22: "The spring that supplies the Fordyce with water was developed while excavating the basement, and thousands of gallons of hot water come boiling from the earth every hour. Here visitors can see and drink the water as it bubbles from the ground in its native state."

(6) n.d., "Beautiful Fordyce, Bathhouse Par Excellence, is Reminiscent of Old Rome's Sumptuousness," newspaper unknown, Hudgins Scrapbook, item 3, p. 82, UASC: "Water Never Exposed to Air. Covered with thick glass, the hot waters bubble from subterranean depths into coils leading to the founts and baths above. Not for one instant is the precious freight of this healing element exposed to the air."

(7) January 24, 1917, John R. Fordyce to Dr. William P. Parks, HOSP Central Files: "It has occured to me that in order to be sure that our employees state correctly the source of our water supply. I would like to get your permission to have printed and hung in a conspicuous place in front of our spring in the basement the following statement...."

(8) November 5-8, 1919, Arkansas Federation of Women's Club's Program -- Hot Springs, Hudgins Scrapbook, item 3, p. 122, UASC: "The Spring that supplies the Fordyce with water was developed while excavating the basement, and thousands of gallons of the Hot Radioactive waters can be seen to belch and bubble from subterranean depths...."

(9) Probably 1925-30, "Health Awaits You at the Fordyce Baths," p. 13, HOSP:

Fortune favored the builders of the Fordyce, for, in excavating, a wonderful spring of approximately 140°F and of enormous capacity was developed. It was named "The Fordyce" and is registered at the Reservation as Spring Number Forty-six, pronounced by the Government as Radioactive. This spring is protected and bubbles from subterranean depths into a large reservoir, and from that is pumped to the founts and baths above.

(10) August 27, 1934, Memorandum from George C. Bolton to Thomas J. Allen (regarding inspection of Fordyce prior to lease renewal), HOSP Central Files:

There is a display hot spring in this basement. When the features contemplated in the promenade are existent there

will not be need for this spring or visits by the bathers or prospective bathers to the basement at all. If the spring is allowed to be used as a display, then of course the proximity of the Attendants' quarters might be objectionable. I would recommend closing out the spring as a display feature at this bathhouse.

### First Floor

Porch. Patrons of the Fordyce Bathhouse (and probably other passersby) used the porch to escape from the hot steamy interior of the bathhouse and the sunbaked pavement of Central Avenue. Relaxation formed an important component of the "water cure," and sociability (meaning both friendships and contacts within one's social class) played a large role in determining which bathhouse one would patronize.

The original porch furniture consisted of armchairs, rockers, and settees made of turned maple with caned seats and backs. When this furniture wore out in the late 1920s, it was replaced by enameled white cypress porch furniture (figures 5 and 6).

In 1955, the Fordyce management purchased "womb chairs" for use on the porch. These chairs were made of wicker or synthetic material on a metal frame (figure 7). Photographic evidence dates the large blue jars or vases given to the Neimeyers in 1965 to the late 1920s or 1930s.

### References:

- (1) February 28, 1915, Arkansas Gazette, p. 7:

A gradual incline leads from the main walk in front to a terrace floored with red promenade tile. This is covered by a copper and glass marquise, suspended by chains from the side of the house. On bright, warm days bathers can, from this place, watch the crowds as they walk along "Magnolia Way."

- (2) c.1915-1923, Postcard (figure 1), "Yours for Good Health."

- (3) c.1922, Postcard (figure 3), "Hot Springs National Park."
- (4) September 15, 1925, H.H. Julian to John R. Fordyce, Sr., UASC: "Most of the porch furniture has been painted and enameled and has freshened up the front quite noticeably."
- (5) April 20, 1931, John G. Lonsdale to John R. Fordyce, UASC:
- Some time ago you wrote me, when you wanted to buy some outdoor cypress chairs -- which were afterwards displayed along Bathhouse Row --, and at that time I told you about them. Now I am writing to you to find out what is the most accessible place around Hot Springs to buy these chairs, because I may want to have six of them at Peaceful Valley this summer and want to commence in advance, so as to get all "organized." I believe they are made by a regular concern, with a name plate on the chair, the wood being cypress, enameled white; some being stationary, and some rockers. If you will give me the above information, it will be appreciated.
- (6) April 22, 1931, John R. Fordyce to John G. Lonsdale, UASC:
- The chairs which we have are made in Hannibal, Mo. by the Comfort Chair Company, I do not believe anyone down here makes them. The Rhodes-Potter Furniture Company here at Hot Springs handles these chairs for the Hannibal firm and if you would order through them I think they would get them for you.
- (7) After 1933, Postcard (figure 4), "Fordyce Baths."
- (8) c.1930s, Photograph (figure 5), exterior of Fordyce Bathhouse, HOSP.
- (9) c.1938-42, Interview with Glenn Springs conducted by Earl Adams (no date). Mr. Spring recalls that desert sand (colored) paint was applied to the outside furniture.
- (10) c.1940s, Photograph (figure 6), "Life Begins Again at the Fordyce," back cover, HOSP.
- (11) August 9, 1954, Donald S. Libbey to Byron L. Neimeyer, Results of inspection prior to lease renewal, HOSP Central Files: "9 -- A complete overhaul of the marques roof covering the front porch, should be accomplished, by the replacement of all broken glass."
- (12) 1955, quoted in 1961 Audit Report compiled by Russell Brown & Co., Schedule "1," UASC: Porch furniture was purchased in 1955 for \$189.81.



(13) Probably 1950s, Postcard (figure 7), "Fordyce Baths."

(14) September 1, 1965, C. Powell Fordyce to Byron L. Neimeyer, HOSP:

Ruth and I enjoyed very much seeing you and Agnes in Hot Springs. I certainly do appreciate all of the many things which you have done for us. As a very small token of our appreciation, the family wants to give you and Agnes the blue jars or vases located on the front porch of the Bathhouse.

(15) 1987, Wood analysis, performed by Center for Wood Anatomy Research, U.S. Forest Products Laboratory, Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. The analysis identified the wood from the 1915 porch furniture as maple (Acer), and the wood from the c. late 1920s furniture (seen in figures 5 and 6) as bald cypress (Taxodium).

Lobby (100). Second only in importance to an impressive facade, the lobby of a bathhouse set the standard of luxury expected at the establishment. The fierce competition between bathhouses was reflected in the designing and furnishing of comfortable and unique public spaces. The rooms involved in the bathing ritual commonly held utilitarian, functional, and sanitary metal furniture. However, lobbies, assembly rooms, parlors, sun rooms and other areas not directly associated with bathing were decorated with attractive, durable furniture that gave each bathhouse a distinctive interior design.

Figures 79-83 offer a useful comparison between the lobbies of the bathhouses during the years 1915-1917. Each bathhouse tried to set the tone or atmosphere of the establishment in this space: opulent, warm but functional, modern and sanitary, etc.

The Fordyce Bathhouse lobby was furnished with comfortable and casual leather upholstered wicker chairs, large ferns, and art pottery. This atmosphere of relaxed informality was designed to help businessmen and socialites forget their hectic personal schedules and enjoy a restful vacation.



In the lobby the prospective bathers purchased their coupons for baths, massages, and other therapy; checked their valuables and outer garments; drank from the hot and cold fountains at either end; and perhaps after the bath, waited for a friend or spouse to finish.

When the bathhouse opened, both lobby fountains provided hot drinking water. Before 1922, one of these fountains was converted to a cool water supply. In the 1940s, drinking fixtures were attached to the fountains at either end of the lobby. These fixtures survived until after the Park Service took possession of the bathhouse. They were removed in the late seventies and early eighties (see figure 14).

The original lighting fixtures were removed and new fluorescent lights installed in 1945.

The wicker furniture in the lobby, assembly room, and parlors saw constant use during the nearly 50 years that the bathhouse was operating. During that period, the seats and chair backs were reupholstered a number of times.

In 1952, probably in anticipation of inspections to be held when applying for a lease renewal in 1954, the management purchased new lobby furniture. Ultimately, this furniture was paid for out of the special reserve fund. (The Analysis of Historic Occupancy contains more information on the reserve fund.) Any wicker furniture from the lobby that was still serviceable was taken upstairs to be used in the assembly room.

The set of new furniture, wrought iron painted "Pompeian green," comprised five glass-topped tables, two semicircular benches, and four armchairs, the benches and chairs outfitted with cloth cushions.

After the bathhouse closed, Mr. and Mrs. Byron L. Neimeyer and Mrs. Downs Fordyce each took half of the wrought iron furniture. Other

furniture, including the old wicker lobby furniture, was given to various friends and former employees or was sold to raise money to maintain the grounds.

#### References:

- (1) c.1915, probably a press release, William H. Deaderick Miscellaneous Papers, pp. 2-3, HOSP:

If beauty alone could cure, then no one would ever go out of these doors with an ache or a pain. The lobby into which first you go from the terrace, is a hall whose walls are covered by the most beautifully veined Italian Marble. The floors are made of ceramic tile, worked out in soft colors of green yellow and black, in a field of white. At each end is a running fountain of hot water, Cupids and Shells of Faience tile all colored in soft neutral tints make a pleasing contrast to the grays of the marble. The electrical fixtures are of oxidized silver. Large plate glass windows in front bar the cold but not the view from the guests who may be driven in from the terrace by the weather. Above these windows are a series of Art Glass transoms, representing cool green pools of water on whose surface float beautiful water lillies. Alabaster bowls suspended from the ceiling cast a soft diffused light from the old ivory tints above, when the nitrogen filled Mazda lamps are turned on. Art reed furniture, tinted brown and upholstered in brown Spanish leather complete this room.

- (2) February 27, 1915, Hot Springs New Era, p. 3:

As you enter the building you find yourself in the lobby, a room approximately 20 by 60 feet. Facing the street are five large plate glass windows, 10 by 12 feet, from which a person can secure a beautiful view of Central avenue. The walls of this lobby are of English-veined Italian marble.

- (3) February 28, 1915, Sentinel-Record, Sec. 2, p. 1, adds:

In the lobby are situated the manager's private office, the clerk's office, which contains 345 solid bronze "valuable" lockers, check room, and entrances to the ladies' and gentlemen's departments. The floor of the lobby (as all other floors throughout the house) are of tile worked and of elaborate and appropriate designs. The electrical fixtures in the lobby are oxidized silver.

- (4) February 28, 1915, Arkansas Gazette, p. 7:

The lobby into which you go from the terrace is a hall whose walls are covered by beautifully veined Italian marble. The floors are made of ceramic tile, worked out in soft colors of green, yellow, red and black, in a field of white. At each end is a running fountain of hot water, cupids and shells of Faience tile, all colored in soft neutral tints, made a pleasing contrast to the grays of the marble. The electrical fixtures are of oxidized silver.

- (5) 1915, Drawing of fountain (figure 9), "Fordyce Bath House," p. 3.

(6) 1915, Photograph (figure 10), Fordyce Lobby, "Fordyce Bath House," p. 12; also in "Maintaining a Standard," c.1916, p. 4; "Health Awaits You at the Fordyce Baths," c.1925-30, p. 17; and Cutter's Guide to Hot Springs, 1916, p. 22.

- (7) 1915, "Fordyce Bath House," p. 13:

Within the lobby every detail calls for praise -- yet this is only the introduction to the beauty of the whole. Walls of veined Italian marble rise from mosaiced tiles, and stately staircases of pink marble lead to the second floor and basement. (One may take the elevator if preferred.) The electrical fixtures and hardware trimmings are silver oxidized.

- (8) Probably 1925-30, Photograph (figure 11) of the south end of the lobby with fountain, "Health Awaits You at the Fordyce Baths," pp. 17-18.

(9) 1914, "Hot Springs Rules and Regulations" booklet, National Archives, RG-79, File 208: Contains poster of rules and regulations to be posted in bathhouse (probably in the lobby or office area).

(10) May 18, 1922, Henry V. Stewart to Dr. Clarence H. Waring, enclosure, p. 4, bacteriological examination of Hot Springs water, HOSP: Notes results from drinking fountains in lobby of Fordyce -- lists hot and cold water.

(11) December 9(?), 1932, Elizabeth M. Gibson to John R. Fordyce, HOSP Miscellaneous Files: "I am sending out to the ho[u]se for that desk about which I spoke to you and will have it finished and put in the lobby so I can work downstairs when you are not here.:

(12) August 27, 1934, Memorandum from George C. Bolton to Thomas J. Allen (regarding inspection of Fordyce prior to lease renewal), HOSP Central Files: "It is recommended that the downstairs office space be not used as a lounge as at present using the outside porch under the metal canopy during the seasonable weather and the front upstairs



dressing room instead." Bolton probably means "lobby" when he refers to the "downstairs office space." Some bathhouses called their lobby area "office."

(13) July 19, 1935, Byron L. Neimeyer to Col. John R. Fordyce, UASC:

In regard to making the lobby larger, and including [front] porch by glass enclosing, my thought is that it would not be as comfortable as the present arrangement. Our bathers use the porch as a lobby about 10 months of the year, and it is most delightful. I heard, and don't know how true it is, but offer -- the Army & Navy Ultra-Violet glass lost its qualities the first 90 days in use, and is now no more than ordinary glass at present. The desk arrangement in the lobby is bad, but this can be helped by either putting in circular desk extending out three or four feet further, or by making desk tops in space now used as managers office, and use this space to sell tickets, and center counter for checking of valuables only, either plan would not cost a great deal.

(14) July 23, 1938, Desk memorandum, Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company to Col. Fordyce taken by R.A. Thomage, UASC:

Estimate for

1 Polished plate glass approximate size 68 x 80	
Boxed FOB Little Rock	\$32.05
Delivered to Hot Springs	\$35.25
Installed Price	\$45.95

Price installed if we take salvage glass	\$41.97
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(15) 1938-42, Interview with Glenn Spring conducted by Ellen Lasley, December 31, 1981: Mr. Spring worked at the Fordyce approximately from 1938 to 1942. He states that in the front lobby corner, on the men's side of the building, stood a late thirties, lift-top, mahogany colored, Sears Roebuck record player with radio. He remembers that anyone who wanted to could play it and that there was a supply of Mills Brothers records. Mr. Spring also recalls that the lobby was painted once while he was employed at the Fordyce and that the color used for the lobby and front area was desert sand.

(16) 1938-42, Interview with Glenn Spring conducted by Earl Adams, no date: Mr. Spring recalls that around 1939 or 1940 the drinking fountains were installed in the fountains in the lobby. At this time he believes that the thermal (hot?) water supply to these fountains was changed to an ice water supply.

A letter from Stewart to Waring dated 1922 indicates that there was both a hot and a cool water supply to the lobby fountains at that time.



Mr. Spring may be remembering the installation of the circulating ice water system in 1940, which may have been used to supply cold water to one of the lobby fountains.

Mr. Spring also remembers that the lobby contained wicker chairs and big ferns in wicker fern stands. He believes that the fluorescent lights installed in the lobby seemed new when he began working there in 1938.

According to the ledger sheets at UASC, "new florescent lighting" was installed in 1945. Current evidence fails to explain why fluorescent light fixtures that were new in 1938 would have been replaced only seven years later.

(17) November 29, 1938, Byron L. Neimeyer to Mrs. John R. Fordyce (Lillian), UASC:

We are in need of some upholstering materials for the lobby chairs in the Bathhouse, and we understand that you are going to be in St. Louis around the first of the year. We wondered if you would be so kind as to make selections of this material while in St. Louis and have them sent to the bathhouse and we will have our upholsterer the Burch Mattress Co., fix them for us.

We would like to have material for twenty chairs, and we estimate it will take  $1\frac{1}{2}$  yards for each chair making a total of thirty yards in all. If you think best this could be divided into three different shades of colors.

(18) January 8, 1946, Lillian P. Fordyce to Byron L. Neimeyer, UASC: "I noticed the Arlington lobby chairs like ours have been re-upholstered, re-painted with touches of color that really makes them look very nice. Let's discuss those new chairs when I come over."

(19) c.1934-1939, Photograph (figure 16), "Main Lobby and Registration Desk," "Fordyce Baths," p. 2, HOSP.

(20) Late 1930s to 1940s, Photograph (figure 12), "Fountain in Lobby," "The Fordyce Baths," p. 2, HOSP.

(21) August 15, 1952, Byron L. Neimeyer to Samuel W. Fordyce, Jr., UASC:

We are using the same lobby chairs that I understand were purchased when the house was built in 1915. They have been kept in repair and reupholstered many times. I thought when Mrs. Fordyce came back to Arkansas, we would decide whether to purchase new ones or redo the ones we have. There are twenty-seven chairs and two writing desks now in use in the lobby. Some of the other bath-houses have purchased new lobby furniture in the last few years.

(22) November 18, 1952, Byron L. Neimeyer to Mr(s?). Fordyce, UASC:  
"We have 10 of our lobby chairs painted and at the upholsterer's -- I think they will be very pretty."

(23) December 10, 1952, Byron L. Neimeyer to Donald S. Libbey, HOSP Central Files:

We have bought and installed some new lobby furniture, the cost of this furniture amounts to \$1153.80. We have invoices that total this amount, which are subject to your audit at any time.

We ask your permission to pay for this purchase out of our special reserve fund, which we have accumulated over the years for such purposes as this new addition to our furniture and fixtures.

This installation was made as a part of our program, in anticipation of your inspection for a new lease.

(24) January 5, 1953, Lillian P. Fordyce to Byron L. Neimeyer, UASC:

I enclose in this a check on the account in Worthens Bank which stands in my name as trustee, which will repay for the cost of the lobby furniture. I hope you will repay yourself for the money you personally advanced. ...Powell and Edward both hope you can persuade the government to let you draw from our reserve fund to replace the cost of the new furniture as it is simply modernizing our bathhouse.

(25) February 9, 1953, Conrad L. Wirth to Byron L. Neimeyer, UASC:

In accordance with the favorable recommendations of the Superintendent and the Regional Director, approval is hereby given for you to make payment from the special reserve fund for the new lobby furniture in the approximate amount of \$1,153.80. The exact amount covered by this approval is, of course, subject to verification and audit.

(26) February 19, 1954, Probably Byron L. Neimeyer to C. Powell Fordyce, UASC:

Our actual cost of furniture, painting and decoration for the lobby was 1,790.18....

The cost of the lobby furniture and repairs was paid for out of the general bank account in Dec. 1952. Your mother reimbursed the bathhouse bank account from bathhouse reserve funds in Jan. 1953, to an amount of 1,183.93.

(27) 1950s, Telephone interview with Downs Fordyce conducted by Carol Petravage, August 23, 1986: Mrs. Downs Fordyce helped to select and order the lobby furniture in 1952. Mrs. Fordyce says that the new furniture was ordered from Dallas to replace the wicker furniture that had been in the lobby since 1915. The new furniture was wrought iron, painted green, and included two semicircular benches and some glass-topped tables to be used as writing tables.

(28) 1950s, Interview with John R. Fordyce, III, and his wife Patricia C. (Patsy) Fordyce conducted by Carol Petravage, August 24, 1986: Mr. and Mrs. Fordyce recall that the new wrought iron lobby furniture was painted "Pompeian green" and that the seating furniture had cloth cushions. The new set contained two semicircular benches, one round glass-topped table (approximately 36" in diameter), two rectangular glass-topped tables (approximately 36" x 24"), two square glass-topped writing tables (approximately 48" square), and four armchairs. The writing tables stood in front of the windows, one on either side of the door. Two armchairs were placed at each writing table. Figure 13, a diagram drawn by Mr. Fordyce, shows the placement of furniture in the lobby.

The Fordyces also recall that potted green plants stood around the fountains at either end of the lobby. Mr. Fordyce mentioned that the old wicker lobby furniture was moved to the assembly room.

(29) September 1, 1965, C. Powell Fordyce to Byron L. Neimeyer, HOSP: "It is perfectly all right to let Ray Smith, Jr., and his wife take three or four of the wicker chairs."

Office (103). Included in the evidence section for the office are representative excerpts from ledgers detailing office supplies and consumables ordered. Although no specific documentation links these materials with this space, it is safe to assume that supplies like these were used in the office.

Some of the cards and file cabinets were used to compile a file of patrons' addresses. The Fordyce management frequently sent Christmas cards, calendars, and other advertising material to people who had bathed at the Fordyce.

By 1933, John Fordyce was using the men's parlor on the third floor as an office. By 1955 the Manager Byron Neimeyer had taken over the third floor men's parlor for his office. Information about this room is listed under "Men's Parlor."



## References:

- (1) c.1915, Probably a press release, p. 3, William H. Deaderick Miscellaneous Papers, HOSP:

To the right is the Manager's private office, and the former patrons of the old "PALACE" Bathhouse, (as well as the new ones to this) will find Mr. J.F. Manier, whose genial bright smile of welcome made their visits a pleasure, and instilled new hope when despondency has crept in. It is due, chiefly, to the experience, careful study, and brilliant suggestions of Mr. Manier that this house has been built in its present state of perfection.

- (2) 1915, Hot Springs New Era, February 27, 1915, p. 3. Also in Sentinel-Record, February 28, 1915, Section 2, p. 1: "In the lobby are situated the manager's private office, the clerk's office, which contains 345 solid bronze 'valuable' lockers, check room and entrances to the ladies' and gentlemen's departments."

- (3) February 28, 1915, Arkansas Gazette, p. 7: "To the right is the private office of the manager, J.F. Manier, who was manager of the old Palace bathhouse."

- (4) January 7, 1916, John F. Manier to Samuel W. Fordyce, JRF. Purchased Dec. 1915 (office supplies):

One drawer lock and duplicate keys	1.25
One quart of Ink	.75
1 dozen penholders	.20...
Typewriter ribbon	.75
Index cards for files	1.00...
Pencils	.50...
Desk Blotters	2.00
Rubber Bands	1.20

- (5) February 1916, "Expense Account," JRF:

Pd. for office supplies	
typewriter ribbon	.75)
1 qt. paste	1.00) to
magazines	.75) L.E. Wyatt
indexed book	1.75)
1 #7 Bladder [?]	1.25)
Periodicals	.80)
Pen holders	.10) to



1 doz. pencils	.45) Steigler
1 box rubber bands	2.25) Bros.
½ doz. velvet pencils	.25)
½ " blotters	.25)
Gen'l supplies for office	1.05)

(6) March 1, 1917, John F. Manier to John R. Fordyce, Arkansas History Commission: "The Card Index and cards have arrived, but we are so busy getting the money that I think it advisable to defer getting up this record until after the busy season has closed."

(7) November 1917, Statement and Trial Balance, Fordyce Bathhouse, prepared by John F. Manier, EF: \$19.15 was spent for "Additional metal cases for filing system."

(8) 1918, "Supplementary Statement #2 Showing Investment, Earnings, and relative percent on Investment (for fiscal year ending June 30, 1918)," EF: Lists "Slips for Filing System... 5.28" for October 1917 and "Metal Filing Cabinets...19.15" for November 1917.

(9) August 1918, Statement and Trial Balance, prepared by John F. Manier, EF: "One four drawer mahogany finished letter and bill file 55.40."

(10) 1919, Fordyce Bathhouse Dividends, Year Ending June 30, 1919; prepared by John F. Manier, EF: "Betterments consist of...a new desk for Cashier and additional filing cases for office use."

(11) 1941, Audit Report, 1961, compiled by Russell Brown & Co., Schedule "1," lists the purchase of an adding machine for \$107.10.

(12) 1948, Ledger Sheet, UASC, indicates that a "talkaphone" inter-office communication system was installed.

(13) 1949, Ledger Sheet, UASC, shows that \$75.00 was expended for the "purchase of office fan."

(14) January 10, 1956, Byron L. Neimeyer to Donald S. Libbey, UASC:

- |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Large letterheads and envelopes. | Correspondence  |
| 2. Small letterheads and envelopes. | [Correspondence]  |
| 3. Price lists                      | To prospective customers by mail and by hand.   |
| 4. Christmas Calendars              | To bathers, prospective bathers. Doctors and tourist facilities. By mail and by hand. |
| 5. Post cards                       | Handed to sightseers and for the use of customers for mail.                           |

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 6. Folder  | In answer to inquiries about the baths. Mail and by hand. |
| 7. Matches   | Handed to customers for their use.                        |
| 8. Visitor's bulletin  | Mailed in answer to inquiries and for use of customers.   |
| 9. Complimentary ads in church and school papers and twice a year in <u>Sentinel-Record</u> Newspaper. Copies not available. |   |

Clerk's Desk (102). The clerk was responsible for selling bath, massage, and treatment coupons. He or she also locked the bather's valuables into the lockboxes located behind the counter. Bathers wore their lockbox keys, attached to elastic bracelets, while taking their treatments. Careful records were kept of bathers' names, their treatments, and whether or not they were under the care of a physician.

#### References:

- (1) February 9, 1915, John R. Fordyce to Samuel W. Fordyce, Jr., JRF: "The locker boxes came today."
- (2) c.1915, probably a press release, p. 3. William H. Deaderick Miscellaneous Papers, HOSP: "Immediately in front of the main door is the office of the Clerk, whose duty it is to arrange for the baths, and take care of the valuables of the bathers. For this purpose, a series of bronze lock boxes are provided."
- (3) 1915, Hot Springs New Era, February 27, 1915, p. 3. Also in Sentinel-Record, February 28, 1915, Section 2, p. 1. "...the clerk's office, which contains 345 solid bronze 'valuable' lockers...."
- (4) 1915. Photograph (figure 15) of "Office," "Fordyce Bath House," p. 12.
- (5) 1918, "Supplementary Statement #2 Showing Investment, Earnings and relative percent on Investment (for fiscal year ending June 30, 1918)," EF: June 1918, "Rack for Coupon Books...4.25."
- (6) June 1919, Statement and Trial Balance, Fordyce Bathhouse, prepared by John F. Manier, EF: "Betterments ....24.75 is for Coupon Book Rack 4.25 Electric Fan 18.50 -- and a sign for Massage Room \$2.00. This item will be deducted from the Expenditures and charged to Investment in the annual report."

(7) April 29, 1940, W.T. Kellogg to Byron L. Neimeyer, HOSP: "On the subject of grilles, Jack decided that Shelf-X, carefully installed with a wood moulding frame and painted would answer the purpose above the strong boxes just as well as an expensive bronze grille."

(8) Probably 1940s, Photograph (figure 17) of "Registration Desk in the Lobby," "The Fordyce Baths," p. 2.

(9) February 14, 1944, Memorandum from Chief Park Ranger Irving D. Townsend to Superintendent, Hot Springs National Park, HOSP Central Files:

It is respectfully suggested that bathhouse personnel responsible for handling valuables of patrons by storing in lock boxes, be instructed by the managers of the houses to be certain such boxes are locked when used, that boxes are emptied by turning upside down when not in use, that boxes may be opened only by one key which the patron retains and that sufficient time be given patrons by clerks to complete such attention.

Whether or not it is desirable for this office to suggest business methods to bathhouse managers may be open to question, but it is believed that each manager of a bathhouse on the "Row" should be informed that the responsibility for losses and investigation in non-criminal matters rests upon the manager of the house and not the National Park Service.

Coatroom (101). Little information survives describing the coat check facility. Existing fittings include a locking coat rack, a locking umbrella rack, and some shelves that may have been used for hats.

#### References:

(1) June 30, 1918, "Transcript of Original Investment Cost of the Fordyce Bathhouse as Shown on Ledgers, Pages 146-147," HOSP, includes "Coat & Umbrella Racks \$239.75."

(2) January 15, 1942, Byron L. Neimeyer to Preston P. Patraw, UASC: "Jesse says he has worked in Fordyce Bathhouse in capacity of porter and check room man, off and on for the past 16 years."

Elevator. George Mann's original ideas for the Fordyce called for two elevators, one each for men and women. Final plans specified one elevator with two doors. Bathhouses mentioned elevators in their adver-

tisements to assure frail patrons access to all floors and facilities in the building. If two elevators were not provided, the elevator had to be designed to keep the sexes strictly separate since bathers were usually wrapped only in a sheet. The Fordyce Bathhouse subscribed to a monthly elevator maintenance and repair contract. Further information on the elevator, as well as the original specifications, can be found in the Historic Structure Report, Fordyce Bathhouse, by Randall Copeland (draft 1986).

### Bath Halls.

General (109 and 113). The information in this section refers to fixtures, interior finishes, and usage of the bath halls in general. Information on the sitz baths, located today in rooms 109, 113, 111, and 112 (the ladies' bath hall, men's bath hall, hydrotherapy room, and steam cabinet room), is compiled in a separate section under "General Evidence." Information concerning the installation and use of bathtubs is also found under "General Evidence."

Each bathhouse claimed to have the best, most complete, and most modern bathing facilities. Figures 84 and 85 are taken from the 1915 Cutter's Guide to Hot Springs and illustrate the facilities available at the New Imperial and the Maurice Bathhouses.

In 1925-6, Superintendent Bolten issued a series of memoranda to bathhouse managers concerning proper sanitary procedures and professional behavior to be observed by bathhouse employees. Since Bolten became superintendent in 1924, perhaps he was trying to correct problems he felt had been previously overlooked.

In 1936, the Fordyce management requested permission to offer whirlpool baths at an additional charge to their regular patrons. When the approval stipulated that the whirlpool be used only with a doctor's prescription, the management chose instead to make the whirlpool part of the Hubbard Tub treatment at no extra charge.



Surviving documentation is generally limited to painting, tile and plumbing repairs, and other regular maintenance. Regular maintenance was important not only to prevent complaints by patrons but also to forestall accidents. Patrons sued the Fordyce Bathhouse several times because of accidents like slipping, burns, and other injuries caused by poor maintenance and employee negligence. For example, in 1948 the Fordyce Bathhouse was sued by a woman who fell on a slippery floor. Neimeyer suggested the use of both bath slippers and rubber mats to prevent any more accidents on the perennially wet floors.

#### References:

(1) December 16, 1914, John R. Fordyce to William P. Parks, Hot Springs Reservation, National Archives, RG-79, 900-05, pt. 1:

We are desirous of installing, (and have already made preliminary steam pipe connections) for Radiators in the Vapor Cabinets.

Our object is to use these Cabinets for Hot Dry Air Cabinets as well as for the Hot Water Vapors; there being as much demand for the Dry Hot Rooms as the Vapor Rooms.

Another point of advantage in having these Radiators in the cabinets is the aid in heating the Cabinet and keeping it warm when not in use as a Water Vapor Cabinet.

The Rules #2 of the Department of [the] Interior prohibit the constant running of water in the Vapor even during bathing hours and when the Vapor is not in use the Marble becomes cold and it takes much more water and TIME to heat it to give a proper Hot Vapor if these Radiators are not used.

It must be understood that these Steam Radiators are in no wise connected with the Natural Hot Water supply, and are absolutely independent of same. When the Patients are taking the Hot Water Vapor the Radiators can be cut off, and when the Patients are taking the Hot Dry Air sweats the Hot Water must be cut off.

Our reason for not having half of the cabinets connected for the Hot Dry Air Treatments, and the other half for the Vapor Treatments, is at times we may have more calls for the Hot Dry Air Treatments, and at other times more calls for the Vapor, therefore by having combination cabinets we can supply either demand. Then too inasmuch

as quite a number of these cabinets are in the rooms which contain tubs, it makes it impractical to conduct a bather from one room where a Hot Dry Cabinet is to one where a Water Vapor is and vice versa, as that room may be occupied with a bather. Where the Combination Cabinets are used the patient would have either at his disposal.

(2) December 26, 1914, William P. Parks to Samuel W. Fordyce, HOSP Central Files:

Relative to the recent application signed by J.R. Fordyce for permission to install radiators in the vapor cabinets in the bath halls in the Fordyce Bathhouse, I am in receipt of a letter from the Department under date of the 21st instant, the last paragraph of which reads in part as follows: "In view of the fact that the installation of these radiators is really experimental in character, permission is hereby given to install such radiators as set forth in the letter from Mr. J.R. Fordyce, and if hereafter it is found that there is any reason why they should be discontinued they will be removed."

(3) June 30, 1918, "Transcript of Original Investment Cost of the Fordyce Bathhouse as Shown on Ledgers, Pages 146-147," HOSP, lists "Marble Benches \$602.80."

(4) 1915, probably a press release, William H. Deaderick Miscellaneous Papers, HOSP:

Descending again to the first floor, the bathers enter the bath room proper. These rooms are lined with white tile, marble partitions form the bath rooms around the walls. The tubs are of porcelain, built in, so that no dirt can accumulate under them. Vapor baths, both head-in and head-out type, are here. Showers baths of all sorts can be given.

(5) February 27, 1915, Hot Springs New Era, p. 3. (Virtually the same account appears in the Sentinel-Record, February 28, 1915, Section 2, p. 1.):

The bathhouse proper is divided into two departments, the men's and women's, the former occupying one-third more space than the latter. Both departments have identically the same equipment. The floors, walls and partitions are all of tile and genuine Italian marble. The tubs, 30 in number, are of special square design; the fittings of solid nickel and are so arranged that a thermometer is a part of the fixture and equipment, recording accurately the temperature of the water in the tub. The bath rooms contain private vapors where the patient can inhale the gases emanating from the waters, and are 7 by 10 feet....

(6) 1915, "Fordyce Bathhouse," pp. 13-14:

In the main bath hall we find floors, walls and partitions of the same exquisite marble and tile -- the men's and women's departments being, of course, equal in every respect. The bath rooms (thirty in number) containing vapor and tub baths, the fixtures of which are solid nickel....

(7) November 6, 1925, Joseph Bolten, M.D., to All Bathhouse Managers, UASC:

A number of complaints have been received in this office during the past few days, bathers stating that the attendants are not properly scrubbing and cleansing the bathtubs.

All you please instruct all attendants and helpers in your bathhouse that each tub is to be thoroughly scrubbed and cleansed after each bath is given. A perfunctory, slight rinsing of the tub is not sufficient. Sitz baths are to be given the same careful attention.

I believe the attendants and helpers all understand the necessity of taking the utmost care of all bathing equipment, to prevent the transmission of infectious diseases. In the future if complaints of this nature are made to this office and are substantiated, the employees guilty of neglect will be suspended.

(8) November 18, 1925, Joseph Bolten, M.D., to All Bathhouse Managers, UASC:

During recent inspections of the bathhouses I have found personal cards which are used by the bath attendants, masseurs, etc. to advertise their efficiency in their particular work. It has always been the custom of this office to prohibit such advertising or soliciting by bathhouse employees. Please inform them it will not be permitted. All cards are to be removed from the bathhouses and none are to be used in the future.

(9) July 10, 1926, Joseph Bolten, M.D., to All Bathhouse Managers, UASC:

Some patients claim they are able to secure ice in certain bathhouses without presenting a physician's bathing directions. Your attention is called to circular letter of August 29, 1924, which prohibits furnishing ice unless the bather presents a bathing direction prescribing its use. Any bathhouse found violating this order will be subject to disciplinary action.



It is also stated by bathers that they are furnished with bath mitts in some of the bathhouses. On August 9, 1924, all managers were informed that bathers must purchase their own mitts, although they took but a single bath. Rule 4, specifically states that bath supplies shall not be sold in the bathhouses, therefore managers shall not permit mitts to be kept in the bathhouse for sale. When a bather desires a mitt, he shall purchase it personally from one of the stores, or the porter may be sent for it. Mitts shall not be kept for sale in the bathhouses, nor shall they be furnished to bathers free of charge.

Some managers have stated that bathers require an unusual number of sheets during a bath. The regulations require that only one sheet be furnished for a bath. It is optional whether more than one is furnished.

(10) October 18, 1927, Joseph Bolten to All Bath House Managers, UASC:

Your attention is called once more to the previous circulars regarding mitts and towels to be furnished prospective bathers.

Please call the attention of the prospective patrons to the fact that they must furnish their own mitts and towels when purchasing tickets for more than a single bath. When a ticket for a single bath is purchased, the bath house may furnish towels, but it is absolutely necessary that the purchaser furnish his own mitt or else be rubbed by hand. There has been too much laxity in this rule recently, and you are being advised again in order that there will be no further misunderstanding concerning this rule. Likewise, call the attention of your attendants to this rule so that they will have no excuse for furnishing mitts or towels to prospective patrons.

(11) December 28, 1928, Joseph Bolten to All Bath House Managers, UASC:

You are also advised that, effective this date, a pitcher shall be used to pour the ice water on towels or mitts which are used for cooling the patient's forehead. It appears that the custom has been to dip the mitt or towel in a pail of ice water, wring the contents back into the pail, thus mixing the contents of the other towels and mitts, which might lead to infection. It is the desire of this office at all times to keep the towels, mitts and other equipment separated so that there shall be no chance of infection. The pouring of the water from a pitcher on these towels or mitts, and then wringing them out in the sink or drain will obviate infection, and there will be no criticism as to this method of handling the cold mitt or cold pack.



(12) 1930s, Interview with Glenn Spring conducted by Ellen Losley, December 31, 1981. Mr. Spring recalls that while he worked at the Fordyce the bath hall interiors were painted off-white. The bath halls and pack rooms were painted more frequently than other rooms because of the moisture problems.

(13) December 21, 1936, John R. Fordyce to Donald S. Libbey, HOSP Central Files:

Permission is requested to install, in our Bathhouse, a Titus Portable Hydro-Massage Whirlpool Bath.

We have had constant request by patients for this treatment. We would like to have you state the conditions under which these baths could be given. It has been suggested that tickets marked Whirlpool Bath be sold to those asking for them and that the price for this Whirlpool Bath be made the same as one of our ordinary baths.

Also make the request that they be given with or without a physicians recommendation as there is no danger of any complicated sort from actions due to these baths.

The use of the whirlpool bath was approved in a February 12, 1937 letter from Hillory A. Tolson to Donald S. Libbey (HOSP Central Files). However, a February 16, 1937, letter from Arno B. Cammerer to Donald S. Libbey (HOSP Central Files) states that whirlpool treatments are only allowed with a doctor's prescription.

Rates for the whirlpool treatment were established in a January 6, 1937, letter from Donald S. Libbey to the Director, National Park Service (HOSP Central Files):

1 Hydro-Massage Whirlpool Treatment	--	\$1.25
5 " " " "		5.85
10 " " " "		11.10
21 " " " "		21.00

(14) March 22, 1951, Byron L. Neimeyer to C. Powell Fordyce, UASC: "I find nothing in the Department of [the] Interior regulations regarding bath slippers. I have just talked to acting superintendent, Geo. Bolton and he says, it is the option of the bather whether they have slippers."

(15) March 22, 1951, Byron L. Neimeyer to C. Powell Fordyce, UASC:

Rubber or wooden matts are deemed unsanitary and unsafe by the Interior Department, and they would recommend against their use. They are not provided in bath halls. They have never been used in bath halls at the Fordyce in the last sixteen years. The Department of Interior has never asked us to provide these matts. Mr. Bolton,

acting superintendent, told me this morning, that had we applied to use matts, the Dep't. would have recommended against their use, for safety and sanitary reasons, and would not have gone against their recommendation.

(16) October 30, 1952, C. Powell Fordyce to Byron L. Neimeyer, UASC: "Do you think it would be a good idea to put up a few nice-looking signs in the various parts of the bathhouse reading as follows: 'We respectfully request all bathers to wear bath slippers?'" A handwritten note on the letter reads: "Ordered from Bill Seiz[?] will deliver November 14, 1952."

(17) November 1, 1952, Byron L. Neimeyer to C. Powell Fordyce, UASC: "I do think it a good idea to request bathers to wear bath slippers and will have the signs made and put up."

(18) August 9, 1954, Donald S. Libbey to Byron L. Neimeyer (results of inspection prior to lease renewal), HOSP Central Files:

2 -- The showers in the men's and women's bath halls should be rehabilitated in order to provide modern fixtures and a more attractive appearance and accomplish economies in the use of water. The present showers are not in accord with the general attractive bath hall and consideration should be given to the installation of automatic controls for the duration of use and temperatures. Doubtless, such installations would result in a reduction of the shower water usage and resultant decrease in the Fordyce water charges. It is noted the average gallons per bath for the Fordyce Bathhouse amounted to 211.7 gallons for the month of June, which is far over the amount of 135 gallons allowed before a surcharge prevails....

6 -- The obsolete automatic thermometer conduits for the bathtubs should be closed and thereby provide more sanitary conditions. It was noted that in addition, prescribed thermometers are being used which are in accordance with regulations which have prevailed for many years. It is recognized the rather unique thermometer conduits and thermometers were installed with a view to providing, as a unit, tubs with built-in thermometers, but experience has established such have proven difficult to clean and apparently it has not been possible to replace the built-in thermometers when necessary. The conduits should be closed with a porcelainized surface on an effective cement filling....

10 -- In case any faulty or leaking plumbing fixtures prevail, such should be replaced with leak proof fittings.

Men's Bath Hall (113). The men's bath hall is undoubtedly the most splendid room in the Fordyce Bathhouse. Advertisements constantly compared the men's bath hall to a Roman bath, implying that Fordyce bathers belonged to the patrician class. Patrons lounged on marble benches beneath a spectacular skylight depicting mermaids and swimmers in an underwater swirl of sea animals and aquatic plants. The bath halls in the other bathhouses pale in comparison (figures 86-93). In most bathhouses, as in the Fordyce, the women's bath hall is smaller and less grand than its male counterpart, probably because traditionally more men patronized the bathhouses than women.

The de Soto fountain was not installed when the bathhouse opened on March 1, 1915, despite its inclusion in the description of the men's bath hall in various newspaper accounts. After the fountain was completed it was placed on display outside the Fordyce until the base was completed. A request was made to allow the fountain to remain outside the bathhouse permanently, but no response to this request has been located. The fountain was installed in the bathhouse sometime between December 13, 1915, and March 1, 1916. In 1926, John Fordyce again requested permission to install the fountain outside, but again no record of approval or disapproval survives except, of course, that the fountain is still in the men's bath hall today.

Originally, 21 bathtubs were installed in the men's bath hall. Only 19 remain. Research suggests that bathtubs were moved from the men's bath hall to the hydrotherapy room after 1930. Two of the bathtubs were replaced by sitz tub installations. Details on these installations are covered in the "Sitz Tubs" section under "General Evidence." After the bathhouse closed, efforts were made to sell the de Soto fountain, but the Fordyce family could not agree on an acceptable price. The Fordyces gave two of the marble benches to the Neimeyers in 1971.

#### References:

- (1) November 10, 1913, George R. Mann to Charles R. Trowbridge, National Archives, RG-79, 900-01, pt. 1, states that "there will be installed 21 baths for men."



(2) October 20, 1914, William P. Parks to the Secretary, Department of the Interior, HOSP Central Files: "The work installing the white tile wainscoating in the mens bath hall has been practically completed."

(3) February 27, 1915, Hot Springs New Era, p. 3:

[The bath rooms] are 7 by 10 feet, arranged around the room so as to form a court in the center about 50 feet square. Light and sunshine is bountifully furnished through a large art glass ceiling which contains approximately 18,000 pieces of glass, worked out in a beautiful design.

(4) February 28, 1915, Sentinel-Record, Section 2, p. 1, adds:

...a beautiful design, representing a man, a mermaid and a woman, together with sea fish of divers kind, in a swirl or whirlpool of water. This ceiling is truly a grand work of art, and as the eyes of the beholders gaze upon it they can scarcely believe but what it is a magnificent painting. Instead of the usual chairs and cots being placed in the court, there has been installed magnificent hand-carved marble lounges or benches built in the Roman style. Here one can sit and await their turn at the bath, and drink the water as it flows from a giant statue fountain representing de Soto standing erect in his Spanish costume, helmet and lance, receiving a drink of water from an Indian maiden typical of the discovery of "The Fountain of Youth."

(5) February 28, 1915, Arkansas Gazette, p. 7:

In the men's bath hall a large central skylight of art glass sheds a diffused light. The water idea has been carried out here also and fish, frogs, mermaids and human bathers can be seen swimming around above. Marble benches are provided for the bathers awaiting their turn, or resting after a bath.

(6) 1915, Photograph (figure 18) of "Main Bath Hall," "Fordyce Bath House," p. 12. The same photograph appears in "Maintaining a Standard," c.1916, p. 7.

(7) 1915, "Fordyce Bathhouse," p. 14:

[The bath rooms] are arranged in a manner that make a great lounging court reminiscent of the luxury of old Rome. No part of the edifice gives a more complete effect of its impressive beauty than this court, with marble benches about where patrons wait their turn, sipping the while the health-giving stream, caught as it flows from a wonderful, historic-sculptured fountain,



representing de Soto receiving a drink of water from an Indian maid, and called "The Fountain of Youth." Light and sunshine is bountifully supplied through a large art glass dome containing approximately eight thousand pieces of glass worked into a design representing Neptune's daughter, mermaids and sea fish in a swirl of water.

- (8) c.1916, "Maintaining a Standard," p. 7:

The quality of the paint on the walls and ceiling of this room is greatly taxed, owing to the vapors that arise from the natural hot water flowing into the thirty tubs, needle and shower baths. The moulding of the dome is highly tinted in colors to match the art glass, and all hold exceptionally well.

- (9) c.1916, "Beautiful Fordyce, Bathhouse Par Excellence, is Reminiscent of Old Rome's Sumptuousness," no newspaper title, Hudgins Scrapbook, item 3, p. 82:

Reminiscent of Old Rome. There are 30 bathrooms in the main bath division, and the fixtures are so arranged as to make a great lounging court reminiscent of the luxury of old Rome. There are marble benches on which patrons sit sipping the wonder waters from a sculptured fountain representing de Soto receiving a drink from an Indian maid and called "The Fountain of Youth." Light comes through a huge art-glass dome worked into a design representing Neptune's daughter and mermaids in a swirl of water.

- (10) 1916, Photograph (figure 19), "Bath Court," Cutter's Guide to Hot Springs, p. 23. The same photograph, titled "De Soto Fountain in Men's Bath Hall," appears in "Health Awaits You at the Fordyce Baths," c.1925-30, pp. 11-12.

- (11) c.1925-30, "Health Awaits You at the Fordyce Baths," p. 14, HOSP:

In the main bath hall one finds floors, walls and partitions of veined Vermont marble -- the men's and women's departments being equal in every respect. The bath rooms, thirty in number, contain vapor and tub baths, arranged in a manner that surrounds a great lounging court, reminiscent of the luxury of old Rome. No part of the edifice gives a more complete effect of its impressive beauty than this court, with marble benches, about which bathers repose, sipping meanwhile the health-giving waters as it flows from the historic-sculptured fountain representing de Soto receiving a drink of water from an Indian maid.

(12) February 1917, The Ornamental Glass Bulletin, Vol. II, No. 1, Chicago, Illinois: A picture of the men's bath hall skylight is illustrated with the caption, "Designed and Executed by CONDIE-BRAY GLASS AND PAINT CO., ST. LOUIS, MO., FOR CEILING LIGHT OVER POND, FORDYCE BATH-HOUSE, HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS."

(13) January 19, 1915, John R. Fordyce to Samuel W. Fordyce, JRF:

This enclosure represents a model of the fountain which design has been submitted to us by the American Tile Company. It is supposed to be made life size and to be placed in the middle of the men's bath hall. This, of course, is not exactly as it will appear later but is simply submitted as a sort of a sketch for our approval. It represents de Soto in full armor receiving a drink of hot water in a shell offered to him by an Indian woman. This is Mr. Manier's idea of a fountain that would be appropriate, artistic, ingenuous and historical. He thinks that, while it is not a necessity, it would be a most attractive feature and one which would go a long way towards helping a man decide to buy a ticket in our bathhouse.

The Tile company have offered to put in this fountain at cost. They at first asked us \$1500.00 but, after listening to Mr. Manier upon the great advertisement that it would be to them to have such a fountain here, they decided that they would let us have it for \$750.00, which they said was the very lowest price that they could get it out for, considering that it was special work and that they had to employ a very high grade artist to make this original design.

I heartily concur with Mr. Manier in the desirability of installing this fountain. It will not delay the opening of the Bathhouse, as a man can put it in under this big skylight while the bathhouse is being operated, and it would form quite an attractive feature for the bathers to watch him do the work.

As a matter of comparison, the marble fountain in the Arlington Bathhouse and the one in the hall by the elevator cost several hundred dollars, and they will be nowhere near as imposing or as beautiful as this.

Of course, it is not a necessity, and perhaps you will not want to put it in, but at any rate let me know about it at once, so that, if you do want it, work can be started on it at the factory.

(14) January 21, 1915, Samuel W. Fordyce to John R. Fordyce, JRF:

This in reply to yours of the 19th inst. enclosing model of fountain, etc. I note particularly everything you have to say in regard to this matter and that it is the judgment of both you and Jack that we should have this fountain. It is to cost \$750.00. Yes, you can go ahead and have it put up at that rate.

(15) May 22, 1915, John F. Manier to Samuel W. Fordyce, JRF: Unpaid bills include "Fountain (approximately) 1000.00."

(16) November 1, 1915, John F. Manier to Samuel W. Fordyce, JRF:

Relative to the matter of the fountain. I did not have an opportunity of explaining to you in detail this matter this morning. At the time that we took the matter up for cancellation, the company informed us that they had at that time expended more money in producing the model than they would receive from us on the entire job completed. In view of this fact, it would be impossible for them to accept our cancellation. They further explained that in accepting this contract & the price they took it at, they were not actuated by any gain or profit on this individual job, it was their desire to have the privilege of placing this work of art in some conspicuous place in or about the Bathhouse where visitors who might become prospective customers of theirs would have the opportunity of viewing same. In other words, they supplied us with this fountain more as an advertisement for them than anything else. I sincerely trust that their talk along this line is true, and we will have no occasion to regret having placed the order with them.

(17) November 8, 1915, John F. Manier to William P. Parks, JRF:

In compliance with the request of S.W. Fordyce, I address to you this letter, making application for permission to erect in front of the Fordyce Bathhouse, to the south of the center, a fountain of sculptured, baked, earthenware, on the order of what is known as colored rook-wood pottery, or terra cotta.

As explained to you, this fountain was originally intended for the interior of the bathhouse, but Colonel Fordyce considered it too magnificent a piece of art to be seen only by those who came into the house, and desiring to assist in the beautification of the exterior, and to give all visitors to Hot Springs the pleasure of seeing this piece of art, he has concluded that the more appropriate place would be the one mentioned above. Inasmuch as the fountain [has] been delivered into the

city, and the masons are awaiting orders to erect same, your earliest convenient attention to this matter will be greatly appreciated.

(18) December 9, 1915, John F. Manier to Samuel W. Fordyce, JRF: Outstanding bills include "De Soto Fountain and installation of same, approximately 1000.00."

(19) December 13, 1915, John F. Manier to Samuel W. Fordyce, JRF:

Relative to the matter of the Fountain. The price \$750.00 does not include the freight Drayage, setting, etc. And in addition to this will come the cost of the base and the commission to the Tile People through which it was purchased. I am of the opinion that Mr. John Fordyce agreed to allow them a 10% commission over the Factory cost. As suggested we will allow this matter to rest until the job is completed.

(20) December 16, 1915, R.E. Overman, Southwestern Tile Company, to John F. Manier, JRF:

The factory invoice of the De Soto Fountain, dated October 21st. \$750.00, should be paid not later than next Tuesday, as the sixty days time will have expired. Wish you would please send us check for this amount, or have it sent to us, and very much oblige.

(21) January 27, 1916, Samuel W. Fordyce to John F. Manier, JRF:

I have just received a letter from Overman at Little Rock claiming that we owe the Southwestern Tile Co. \$750.00. This in payment of the De Soto Fountain. This Company don't seem to have money enough to pay the Company for making it, etc. This contract was made by John perhaps, and yourself. Not knowing anything about the details of it I have just sent John a check for \$750.00 to be applied on the payment of this fountain.

(22) February 17, 1916, John F. Manier to Samuel W. Fordyce, JRF: Payment in full made to "S-W Tile Co. Balance in full on De Soto Fountain 236.00."

(23) c.1915-1916, no newspaper title, Hudgins Scrapbook, item 3, p. 83, UASC:

#### DE SOTO FOUNTAIN AT THE FORDYCE

Beautiful Group of Statuary to Be Placed in the Main Bath Room Represents De Soto's Peace Pact With Indians

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A beautiful piece of statuary, in American bisque, which has been pronounced by connoisseurs to be one of the finest pieces of art ever seen in Hot Springs, is now on exhibition in front of the Fordyce Bathhouse, and when the base is completed will be placed in the main bath room where it will become the central figure of the new \$5,000 drinking fountain of this bathhouse.

The statue depicts the Spanish adventurer de Soto, receiving at the hands of a beautiful Indian maiden a cup of the famous peace water of the Indian legendary history. The draught is being tendered the white man in the peace cup of the red men who regarded this valley and the curative waters as neutral and sacred to all tribes, the spot where the weapons of war were laid aside and where the various tribes brought their sick and afflicted in peace to be cured.

The peace cup of the Indians was represented by the figure of a dove, and beside the main figures is a water bottle, which is the work of Indian art.

The entire setting is historically accurate, even to the Arkansas cactus and the tufa which were peculiar to this locality.

De Soto, when he discovered these hot springs, believed that he had found the famed "fountain of youth" for which he had been searching for years. The Indians in this valley, gazing upon the white man for the first time, believed him to be a divinity, a messenger of the Great Spirit of the Indians.

The set represents the peace pact entered into between the Spanish adventurers and the aborigines of Arkansas, and is so striking in its characteristic representation that one is immediately struck with the beauty and the symbolic setting of the figures.

The base will be of verdi antique marble, and the placing of the group is now awaiting the arrival of this stone to complete the base in the main bath room.

When the fountain is finished it will afford two drinking places for cold water and two for hot water.

The dove drinking cup and the Indian water bottle used in the group are exact reproductions of two of the most famous Indian relics in the Fordyce collection, which is one of the most extensive and valuable in the United States.

(24) March 1, 1916, "Anniversary of Fordyce Baths," Sentinel-Record, Hudgins Scrapbook, item 3, p. 83, UASC:

The beautiful fountain, an allegorical statue of the Indian princess offering de Soto a drink of hot water from a stone jar, in the men's bath parlor, has been completed since the opening last year, and as the hot waters flow from the cup and over the figures of de Soto and the Indian princess, produces a most beautiful effect. The fountain is directly underneath the art glass dome, which has been pronounced to be one of the finest works of art of this kind in the world. This, like all the statuary and decorations of the Fordyce, has a direct reference to water, and represents Neptune's daughter.

(25) May 19, 1916, John F. Manier to John R. Fordyce, Arkansas History Commission:

Some time ago I noticed a crack in the ceiling of the Men's Bath Hall located in the South West Corner. When Mr. Geo. Mann was over here I called his attention to it, and he was of the opinion that it was merely a plaster crack. This opinion was based upon examination of the floor above (in the Mechano-Therapy Department), which showed no signs of cracking. However yesterday I noticed a slight crack in the floor of this department and upon investigation today find that the crack has opened up clear across the Mechano-Therapy floor as indicated in the enclosed drawing, and this seems to be a Big Healthy Crack. Not being familiar with Concrete Structures, I thought best to communicate this condition to you.

(26) n.d. (May 1916), John R. Fordyce to John F. Manier, Arkansas History Commission:

Yours of the 19th. I think the crack in the Men's Bath Room and the floor of the Mechano Room is due to uneven settling of the foundations. The part of the building which is on the solid rock is not going down while the part on the slate is evidently sliding. This may have been caused by breaking the wall to get in those big tanks. I would suggest that you get on some overalls and a pocket electric light and make an examination of the foundation under the crack and let me know the results. I believe that you should have some neat cement poured into the crack in the floor in the Mechano Room after having a plasterer fill up the crack in the ceiling of the Bath Room with Plaster of Paris. This will prevent moisture getting into the steel reinforcing rods.

(27) January 1918, "Supplementary Statement #2 Showing Investment, Earnings and relative percent on Investment (for fiscal year ending June 30, 1918)," EF: Lists "Marble Shelves for Towels...51.08."

(28) June 30, 1918, "Transcript of Original Investment Cost of The Fordyce Bathhouse as Shown on Ledgers, Pages 146-147," HOSP, includes "De Soto Fountain \$988.01."

(29) 1930s, Interview with Glenn Spring conducted by Ellen Lasley, December 31, 1981. Mr. Spring states that each section of the molding around the stained glass skylight was painted a different color.

(30) c.1934-1939, Photograph (figure 20), "De Soto Fountain in Bath Hall," "Fordyce Baths," p. 2.

(31) c.1940s, Photograph (figure 22), "DeSoto Fountain in Bath Hall," "The Fordyce Baths," p. 2.

(32) c.1940s, Photograph (figure 23), "No spa of ancient Rome had finer baths than these." "We're on our way to...Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas."

(33) August 3, 1948, Superintendent Thomas Boles to Manager, Fordyce, UASC. A bathhouse inspection revealed that in the men's bath hall, "Paint on bath hall ceiling is bad, Front of showers in the bath hall dirty."

(34) January 1951, Photograph (figure 24) of men's bath hall, "Hot Springs," by Phil Stong, Holiday, pp. 38-39.

(35) July 5, 1956, Donald S. Libbey to Byron L. Neimeyer (Report of Annual Inspection of Fire and Safety Hazards), UASC, includes "Leaking valve on one tub and on one sitz tub in bath hall [men's side]."

(36) November 20, 1958, Donald S. Libbey to Byron L. Neimeyer, HOSP Central Files:

On inspection of the men's side of the Fordyce Bathhouse on October 31, 1958, the inspector found four tubs in which the temperature exceeded the permissible temperatures. He also found the toilet in that side of your bathhouse was dirty. Please take immediate steps to see that these situations are corrected.

(37) May 18, 1962, H. Raymond Gregg to C. Powell Fordyce, HOSP Central Files:

The rest of the \$1,000 could be profitably employed in the most urgent rehabilitation items such as floor tiles that are in dangerous condition in places. It is surprising there have not been complaints of cut feet in the men's shower where the tiles are falling apart.



(38) September 1, 1965, C. Powell Fordyce to Byron L. Neimeyer, HOSP:

I talked to Eddie about selling the de Soto fountain to your friend for \$750.00, and I am sorry to say that he does not want to make the deal. He thinks that Father paid four or five thousand dollars for this fountain and that it would be a sacrifice to let it go for anything like \$750.00. Personally I would prefer to let it go for anything we could get for it. However, Eddie owns as much of it as I do and I guess we will have to refuse to sell for \$750.00.

(39) March 29, 1971, C. Powell Fordyce to Byron L. Neimeyer, HOSP:

When Mr. Kissire takes the equipment from the bathhouse, why don't you see if you can't get him to have the movers bring to your house the marble bench you want, and which is now located in the men's bath hall in the bathhouse. Everybody in the family to whom I have talked has said that they would be very happy for you to have this, since they so appreciate all of the many things that you have done for us.

(40) August 2, 1982, C. Powell Fordyce to Edward Greensfelder, Jr., HOSP:

As I think I have previously told you the Kansas City company that went over this piece of stained glass found a trade journal published about the time the Bathhouse was built which contained a picture of this stained glass skylight which stated that it was made by the Condie-Bray Glass Company of St. Louis. I believe this trade journal is more accurate than my memory and shows that I was wrong when I said that I thought it was made by Tiffany.

Ladies' Bath Hall (109). The ladies' bath hall was never as luxurious as the men's bath hall. A marble bench and a few small stained glass windows were employed to dress it up, but it was certainly never the architect's main focus. No overall photos of the ladies' bath hall have been located, although there is a picture of a ladies' bath room in use. Several images survive, however, showing other ladies' bath halls at Hot Springs (figures 94-97).

Although the architect's plan specified eight tubs in the ladies' bath hall, one tub broke in transit and only seven were installed. To correct this shortage, Manier arranged for an extra tub from the Superior



Bathhouse to be installed in 1916, which explains why one tub in the ladies' bath hall doesn't match the others in style.

The sitz tub in the women's bath hall was installed after 1929. The sitz tub may have replaced a steam cabinet, like the ones in the steam cabinet room. Stains on the floor of the bath hall may have been caused by an extension of the needle shower. Originally, this extension would have provided a disrobing area before entering the shower. If so, one probably would have entered the shower from the women's bath hall instead of the pack room.

#### References:

(1) November 10, 1913, George R. Mann to Charles R. Trowbridge, National Archives, RG-79, 900-01, pt. 1, states that "there will be installed...eight tubs for women."

(2) October 20, 1914, William P. Parks to the Secretary, Department of the Interior, HOSP Central Files, states that "the work of installing white tile wainscoting in the ladies' department will be commenced in a day or two."

(3) February 10, 1915, Eugene J. Stern to William P. Parks, HOSP Central Files: Changes made during construction included "vapor and head exposed cabinets interchanged in Women's Bath Hall."

(4) February 28, 1915, Arkansas Gazette, p. 7: "The hall for women is similarly equipped. Stained glass windows of soft beautiful 'new art' landscape design admit the light."

(5) February 17, 1916, John F. Manier to Samuel W. Fordyce, JRF:

I had a talk with Mr. Barkley who has charge of Wm. Borman & Brothers, and he said that they were doing the plumbing work for the Superior Bathhouse and that they had an extra tub that they would install for us at cost. At the most it would not exceed \$200.00 and I recommend that we take advantage of this offer as we are badly crowded with lady bathers, and this additional tub will help us greatly; And if you approve this, I will have it installed immediately.

(6) February 17, 1916, John F. Manier to Samuel W. Fordyce, JRF: Payment in full made to "St. Louis Brass Co. Foot Stools to Shorten Bath Tubs for ladies' tubs 30.00."

(7) July 1917, "Statement & Trial Balance, Fordyce Bathhouse," Arkansas History Commission: "--Supplying Fly screens on windows of Ladies' Bath Room and three basement windows, where none had here-to-fore been. This Item \$18.25 will be transfered from an expenditure to the Investment account at the end of the year."

(8) December 28, 1928, Memorandum from Joseph S. Bolten to All Bath House Managers, UASC:

From time to time we have had complaints regarding the entering of the women's side by male employees of the bathhouse, or laundrymen, to obtain the soiled linen from the ladies' side. This has occurred while there were women in the bathhouse, and it has occasioned embarrassment on a number of occasions. You are advised that, effective this date, no male employees or laundrymen will be permitted on the female side of the bath house during bathing hours, but only when there is no one bathing.

(9) April 18, 1929, Frank A. Stearns to Joseph S. Bolten, HOSP Central Files: "On the women's side the maid has instructions to make frequent inspection and to keep the sheets, towels and paper picked up at all times."

(10) c.1940s, Photograph (figure 25) of tub bath, "Life Begins Again at the Fordyce," p. 3, HOSP.

(11) c.1940s, Photographs (figures 26 and 27) of sitz bath and of vapor cabinet, "Life Begins Again at the Fordyce," p. 3.

(12) February 28, 1950, Byron L. Neimeyer to Mr. Fordyce (unspecified), UASC: "We are using the new cold water system installed by the Dept. of Interior but have not been able to get the old storage tanks dried out sufficiently to start out [?] painting on walls adjoining these tanks -- hope to be able to start the painting of the wall in the women's bath hall next Sunday."

(13) February 11, 1952, Lillian Fordyce to Byron L. Neimeyer, UASC:

I forgot to call your attention to the way the paint is peeling off the walls in the lavatory in the women's bath room and other walls. Could this be remedied without much expense? No doubt other walls are peeling too. Has any other bathhouse found a paint that will stay put? The attendants seem to be draping the wet sheets over the doors of the different bath rooms which doesn't improve the scenery very much.

(14) July 5, 1956, Donald S. Libbey to Byron L. Neimeyer, UASC. In the Report of Annual Inspection of Fire and Safety Hazards are listed "Two broken thermometers in bath hall [women's side]."

(15) July 17, 1958, Donald S. Libbey to Byron L. Neimeyer (Annual Inspection of Fire & Safety Hazards), UASC: "Several floor tiles missing in the women's bath hall....Vapor cabinets in women's bath hall should be cleaned, with door latches repaired and one door replaced."

Hydrotherapy Room (111). Treatments received in the hydrotherapy room were optional. A complete description of each type of therapy can be found in the section on spa therapy. Other bathhouses also offered various types of hydrotherapy. The 1915-1917 editions of the Cutter's Guide to Hot Springs advertise hydrotherapy departments for the New Imperial, Maurice, New Rector, and Buckstaff bathhouses. Photographs from Cutter's Guide, "The Hot Springs of Arkansas," and an advertising brochure entitled "Buckstaff Baths," reproduced as figures 98-100, are included for comparison to the Fordyce Bathhouse hydrotherapy department.

Originally, the hydrotherapy room in the Fordyce provided a bathtub for hydroelectric baths, an enameled metal table for the salt glow treatment and various douches and irrigations, apparatus for giving the Scotch douche, an electric light bath cabinet, and a frigid cabinet. The therapies available in the hydrotherapy room must never have been very popular, since in 1921 the Fordyce management already considered replacing much of the equipment with tubs. Evidence indicates, however, that no equipment was removed until the late 1920s or early 1930s. Ultimately, the metal table, the electric light bath cabinet, and the frigid cabinet were replaced with two additional bathtubs and two more sitz baths. The extra bathtubs were probably removed from the men's bath hall, which originally had 21 tubs and now has only 19.

#### References:

(1) November 10, 1913, George R. Mann to Charles R. Trowbridge, National Archives, RG-79, 900-01, pt. 1: "There will be installed 21 baths for men with an additional electric tub in the hydrotherapeutic room."

(2) February 27, 1915, Hot Springs New Era, p. 3 (virtually identical to Sentinel-Record, February 28, 1915, Section 2, p. 1): "There is also a hydrotherapeutic room, equipped with the most modern apparatus, including the electrically heated sun ray and the frigid cabinets, control table for giving the various sprays, douches, etc., [sitz?] bath, electric baths, etc."



(3) February 28, 1915, Arkansas Gazette, p. 7: "The special features of the bathhouse are the hydro rooms and the mechanical department. In the hydro room all the latest devices in hydrotherapy are installed. The violet ray, [Sitz?], Bad Neuheim, Schei-bad and the electrical bath and hot and cold douches are provided."

(4) 1915, "Fordyce Bath House," p. 14: "A feature of great scientific interest is the hydro-therapeutic room nearby; its equipment including sun-ray cabinets, frigid cabinets, devices for sprays, douches, Sitz baths, electric baths and the like."

(5) 1915, Photograph (figure 28), "Hydro-therapy," "Fordyce Bath House," p. 14. The same photograph (although cropped differently) can be found on p. 3, "Hydro-therapy Department," of "Maintaining a Standard," c.1916 (HOSP); on p. 11 "Health Awaits You at the Fordyce Baths," c.1925-30 (HOSP); and in "Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas: The Nation's Health Resort," 1927 (UASC).

(6) 1915, Photograph (figure 29), "Bath Room," "Fordyce Bath House," p. 13.

(7) n.d., Photograph (figure 30), of a man receiving the Scotch douche therapy, HOSP.

(8) March 4, 1918, John F. Manier to John R. Fordyce, Arkansas History Commission:

In connection with the above case, desire to inform you that only a few months ago, upon the advice of the Colonel Fordyce but under his protest, we settled with a fellow, by the name of Kein for \$250.00; which he claims the amount of his expenses for an alleged burn, which he claims to have sustained in the Electric Cabinet. He, himself, sticking his foot (so the operator says) against the hot metal. Kein contends that he had told the operator that it was too hot. The operator claims that Kein did not complain that it was too hot until after he had burned himself.

(9) June 1, 1921, William P. Parks to John R. Fordyce, HOSP Central Files:

I am in receipt of a communication from the Director of the National Park Service, relative to the removal of the hydro-therapeutic installations in the bathhouses in this city, on account of the fact that there is not a sufficient demand for this equipment to keep it in operation at the present time.

In view of the fact that the bathhouses which desire to remove this equipment are willing to utilize the space it now occupies in other ways for the service of the public, the Director feels that it is permissible to have such removal made. However, it is understood that if, in the



future, the demand for hydrotherapeutic treatment is sufficient, your bathhouse will replace same upon the instructions of the Service. You are therefore, under this condition, authorized to remove the hydrotherapeutic equipment from the Fordyce Bathhouse if you so desire.

(10) June 1, 1921, John R. Fordyce to William P. Parks, National Archives, RG-79, 900-05, pt. 2:

Your letter of June 1st, in regard to the removal of the hydro room.

I understand the conditions in regard to this room, and it is my intention to make up a sketch showing how we can put in three (3) tubs, which will be available for the Women's Bath Hall. Just as soon as I have this sketch ready, I will submit it to you for your approval.

Please consider this letter as a request for the installation of three (3) more ordinary tubs.

(11) March 2, 1927, Memorandum from Joseph S. Bolten to All Bathhouse Managers, UASC:

It is requested that you caution your female attendants especially in regard to sanitation in connection with giving bathers vaginal douches, since complaint has been received in this respect.

Please instruct the attendants that before being attached to the douche nozzle furnished by the patient, the douche hose tip is to be cleansed thoroughly with soap and water or some other effective cleanser. When not in use the rubber douche hose shall not be permitted to fall on the floor or behind tubs, but must be placed in the douche can, and kept in a thoroughly sanitary condition at all times. Strict compliance with these instructions is demanded of all attendants.

(12) August 11, 1927, Memorandum from Joseph S. Bolten to All Bathhouse Managers, UASC:

Please advise all bath attendants that effective today, all douches except vaginal douches are to be given in the tubs either full or half full of water.

Complaint has been made by some of the physicians that the douches given without water have been too strenuous and have affected the patients. Vaginal douches, however, must be given in empty tubs.

(13) September 23, 1930, Probably a draft form letter, Fordyce Baths to doctors in Hot Springs, HOSP: As of 1930, the Fordyce still lists the porcelain slab, the electric light bath cabinet, and the hydroelectric tub, but no longer advertises the frigid cabinet, which may have been replaced by then.

Desiring to co-operate with you at all times your attention is directed to the fact that this institution possesses the following features that you may not be aware of:--

...sitz baths under 90 pound air pressure instead of gravity system;

"Scotch" douche, also under 90 pound pressure.

Tub equipped for electro-hydro therapy.

Cabinet vapor equipped with the different types and colors of light globes....

Porcelain slab for salt glow treatments.

(14) September 23, 1930, Enclosure for form letter from Fordyce Baths to doctors in Hot Springs, HOSP: "Hydro-Therapy Equipment" available at the Fordyce includes "Solid porcelain Sitz bathtubs with 'liver spray' and 'bidet' nozzle..." and "The 'Scotch' douche baths (alternate hot and cold water) are also given under 90# pressure." "Electro Hydro Equipment" available includes a "Tub equipped with electrodes and cabinet vapor with globes giving the different rays."

(15) August 27, 1934, Memorandum from George C. Bolton to Thomas J. Allen (regarding inspection of Fordyce prior to lease renewal), HOSP Central Files: "The hydro room is used by both patrons from the men's and women's side of the house. There should be a door at the entrance on the men's side to insure privacy to the women when they are using it. All fixtures should be gone over and placed in repair."

(16) February 18, 1944, Superintendent J.W. Emmert to Managers, Fordyce and Maurice Bathhouses, HOSP Central Files:

Reference is made to our recent conversation in regard to the use of the Scotch Douche on bathers in your bathhouse.

I consulted with the President of the Federal Registration Board and find that this douche is not necessary nor desirable for other than patients having doctors' directions and furthermore that it uses a large quantity of water per bather.

Until further notice, the Scotch Douche is not to be used except on doctors' directions. It is believed that this will make a considerable economy in the use of our hot water during this peak season.

Steam Room (112). The steam room, also called the "thermo-therapy department," remains an enigma. The original 1915 newspaper descriptions mention seven cabinets used for giving either the "dry and hot bakes" or the "head out" vapor bath. Usually, the "dry and hot bake" refers to the treatment obtained in the hot room. Originally, the steam room held four "head out" steam cabinets. The room is too small to hold any additional cabinets for hot and dry bakes. One of the steam cabinets was replaced by a sitz bath after 1934.

No pictorial evidence of the Fordyce steam room has been found. Figure 101, "Hot Cabinet -- Men's Bath Hall," shows that the Buckstaff Bathhouse installed its steam cabinets in the men's bath hall.

#### References:

(1) February 10, 1915, Eugene J. Stern to Dr. Parks, HOSP Central Files: Changes made during construction included "Marble partitions omitted in Cabinet Room."

(2) February 27, 1915, Hot Springs New Era, p. 3 (very similar to Sentinel-Record, February 28, 1915, Section 2, p. 1): "Passing from the hydro room you enter the thermo-therapy department, where seven cabinets are arranged for giving either the dry [and] hot bakes, or the natural hot water vapors with the head out of the cabinet."

(3) September 1, 1922, John F. Manier to John R. Fordyce, EF: "Griffie called up the other day and informed us that the marble for the Cabinet Vapors has been shipped, trust it will not be delayed as now will be a good time to install it, as business will not be much in September."

(4) c.1925-30, "Health Awaits You at the Fordyce Baths," p. 14, HOSP: "There is also a room for...cabinets for natural vapor baths, enveloping all but the bather's head."

(5) August 27, 1934, Memorandum from George C. Bolton to Thomas J. Allen (regarding inspection of Fordyce prior to lease renewal), HOSP Central Files:

The vapor cabinet room off the men's bath hall needs going over. This is one of the poorest spots in the



whole building. I would recommend that another Sitz bath be authorized for the men's side and one for the women's side. I also recommend that should these be approved that the one on the men's side be placed on the extreme right of the vapor cabinets and that the whole system of Sitz baths and Cabinets be painted, with the exception of course of the Sitz tubs.

(6) c.1934-1939, Photograph (figure 31), "Modern 'Head-Out' Vapor Equipment," "Fordyce Baths," p. 3.

(7) 1948-49, Ledger sheet, UASC: Noted are "Vapor cabinet repairs [in] April '49 132.25."

(8) August 9, 1954, Superintendent Donald S. Libbey to Byron L. Neimeyer (results of inspection prior to lease renewal), HOSP Central Files: "4 -- Vapor cabinets should be rehabilitated or replaced in accord with efficient and modern vapor cabinet practices, and sanitary tiling installed."

Hot Room (117). Little documentation for the Fordyce Bathhouse hot room has been located. The Cutter's Guide to Hot Springs includes advertisements for hot rooms in other bathhouses. The 1915 edition describes the "after-bath sweat room" at the New Imperial Bathhouse as having "ceramic tile with windows six feet above floor line, equipped with lounges of all steel, white enamel backed finish, solid welded." The "after-bath sweat room," however, may possibly be another name for the pack room. In the 1917 edition of the Cutter's Guide, the New Rector Bathhouse is advertised as having "enameled sanitary couches...installed in the hot and cooling rooms."

Pictorial evidence is unavailable for the Fordyce hot room. A photograph of the New Imperial Bathhouse "After-Bath Sweat Room," figure 102, from the 1915 Cutter's Guide is included for comparison.

#### References:

(1) 1915; Hot Springs New Era, February 27, 1915, p. 3; and Sentinel-Record, February 28, 1915, Section 2, p. 1. "From this room you pass through the Turkish hot room, temperature 150 degrees F...."

(2) 1915, "Fordyce Bath House," p. 14. "There is also a thermo room for dry and hot 'bakes,' as they are called."



(3) March 13, 1915, John R. Fordyce to Samuel W. Fordyce, JRF:

The heating system is now practically alright, with the exception of the very hot room. The temperature of this room was to have been 140 but to obtain that temperature it is necessary to put in another radiator. This, however, is a simple matter as we can simply couple it up to the one that is already there and this can be done after bathing hours. The temperature in the other rooms is right.

(4) c.1925-30, "Health Awaits You at the Fordyce Baths," p. 14: The hot room is "furnished in porcelain enamel," that is, enameled metal furniture.

(5) September 23, 1930, Form letter from Fordyce Baths to doctors in Hot Springs, HOSP: At the Fordyce a "150 degree hot room" is available.

(6) August 27, 1934, Memorandum from George C. Bolton to Thomas J. Allen (regarding inspection of Fordyce prior to lease renewal), HOSP Central Files: "The hot room should be brightened up, the outside lighting now coming from a rear window is very poor on account of the condition of the glass in the outside window. This is one of the places necessitating an opening in the wall screening mentioned in second paragraph of this report."

(7) July 17, 1958, Donald S. Libbey to Byron L. Neimeyer, (Annual Inspection of Fire & Safety Hazards), UASC, lists "hot room in need of thorough cleaning."

#### Pack Rooms.

General (118, 107). The pack rooms were supposed to be kept at a relatively high temperature (90° F) to prevent chilling after the bath. However, the Fordyce pack rooms had a constant problem with overheating during the summer months.

The pack rooms were furnished with enameled metal lounges and had showers available for use after the hot packs were applied.

#### References:

(1) February 28, 1915, Arkansas Gazette, p. 7: "The hot or 'pack rooms,' are equipped with porcelain couches designed especially for this use and shower baths."

(2) August 27, 1934, Memorandum from George C. Bolton to Thomas J. Allen (regarding inspection of Fordyce prior to lease renewal), HOSP Central Files:

The wall clocks in this house have been allowed to deteriorate badly and should be replaced throughout. The plumbing fixtures have been repaired again and again, this especially in the showers which should all be placed in excellent condition. A larger and more efficient pack tub with a rest should be installed in place of the one now used.

(3) August 15, 1952, Byron L. Neimeyer to Samuel W. Fordyce, III, UASC:

Regarding bathhouse needs, we should have installed two new auxiliary heating units that can be used in the summer months to heat the pack rooms. Our present system requires really too large and expensive an operation, for the hot days in summer when heat is needed in only two rooms. The auxiliary system will operate in winter also to help supply heat to the hard-to-heat places. We have a bid on this installation to an amount of \$1375.00.

(4) May 18, 1962, H. Raymond Gregg to C. Powell Fordyce, HOSP Central Files:

There has been repeated difficulty with overheating of your pack rooms. We have been unable to get Mr. Neimeyer or the building engineer to take reliable corrective steps to hold the heat of these rooms within safe limits. This aggravating problem also subjects the bathhouse to possible liability should there be any serious impairment or casualty traceable by medical findings to overheating. At least during the period from late April to early November, it probably would be possible to heat these rooms adequately by connecting heating units of proper capacity into the building duct system, eliminating the heavy duty gas-fired boilers for that period when general space heating requirements are almost nil.

(5) May 22, 1962, H. Raymond Gregg to Byron L. Neimeyer, UASC:

Room temperature standards, established as recommended by the Federal Registration Board, were issued on January 4, 1962 to each bathhouse for compliance. In personally checking your pack room thermometer on occasional visits, and from the inspection reports over the past several months, I am disturbed by the frequency of occurrence of excessive temperatures. We list below recent reported pack room temperatures, five of which are above the allowable maximum of 105 degrees. (Only one reading is below the maximum):

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Temperature</u>
October	20, 1961	120
November	22, 1961	110
December	11, 1961	105
January	3, 1962	108
February	7, 1962	104
March	24, 1962	118
April	24, 1962	110
May	15, 1962	115

Men's Pack Room (118). The deep utility sink found in this room allowed the attendant to rinse the towels for the hot packs under the hot spring water. The attendant used the clothes wringer to remove most of the water to prevent burning the patron.

#### References:

(1) 1915; Hot Springs New Era, February 27, 1915, p. 3; and Sentinel-Record, February 28, 1915, Section 2, p. 1 (identical accounts): "Then to the pack room, which is 70 feet long and 20 feet wide, furnished with double rows of solid porcelain cots, which have nickel legs. After this room, to the needle and shower, which is of the latest and most scientific type."

(2) 1915, Photograph (figure 32), "Pack Room," "Fordyce Bath House," p. 14.

(3) January 7, 1916, John F. Manier to Samuel W. Fordyce, JRF, lists "1 Clothes Wringer for Pack Room Men's Side 3.50" purchased in December 1915.

(4) April 18, 1929, Frank A. Stearns to Dr. Joseph S. Bolten, HOSP Central Files:

I was very much surprised to receive your communication of the 17th. inst. re; condition of the bathhouse as I have been making special efforts to maintain a clean and tidy appearance of our premises, and very naturally I am disappointed to learn of the unfavorable conditions at the time of your visit. The period between twelve noon and two in the afternoon has caused me more concern than any other in respect to tidiness of the house.

By investigation I find that the unfavorable conditions must have existed in the downstairs men's cooling room and pack room as I find that these rooms were not inspected on this day between twelve and two o'clock. My instructions have been that pack room employees must keep

sheets and towels picked up and must not leave these rooms at noon or afternoon until they have been put in a tidy condition. Instructions have been given to the porter Rufus, who takes the elevator for the hour from twelve to one, that he must not only watch these two racks and pick up papers, towels and sheets during this period, but also perform these same duties in the upstairs cooling rooms and the dressing rooms. The porter is also being continuously instructed that he must keep the towels and sheets picked up on the men's side during the bathing hours. Walter Davis, the regular elevator man, has been instructed and frequently cautioned to inspect the same rooms during the period between one and two and to make them tidy.

(5) c.1925-30, Photograph (figure 33), "Men's Pack Room with Cooling Room Beyond," "Health Awaits You at the Fordyce Baths," p. 18.

(6) c.1934-1939, Photograph (figure 34), "Where Hot Packs Are Applied," "Fordyce Baths," p. 3.

(7) c.1940s, Photograph (figure 35), "Where Hot Packs Are Applied," "The Fordyce Baths," p. 2.

(8) July 17, 1958, Donald S. Libbey to Byron L. Neimeyer (Annual Inspection of Fire & Safety Hazards), UASC, includes "cots in men's pack room rusted on edges."

Ladies' Pack Room (107). The much smaller ladies' pack room reflects the fact that in Hot Springs in 1915 men greatly outnumbered women as bathhouse patrons.

#### References:

(1) February 10, 1915, Eugene J. Stern to William P. Parks, HOSP Central Files: Changes on the first floor made during construction included "Drinking fountain changed in Women's Pack Room."

(2) c.1940s, Photograph (figure 36) of ladies' pack room, "Life Begins Again at the Fordyce," p. 3.

(3) July 17, 1958, Donald S. Libbey to Byron L. Neimeyer (Annual Inspection of Fire & Safety Hazards), UASC, includes: "Janitor supply closet on women's side in need of thorough cleaning." The closet, probably 108, opens off of the ladies' pack room.



## Cooling Rooms.

General (105, 119, 120, 206, and 213). Each side of the bathhouse was provided with two cooling rooms. The cooling rooms provided a place for patrons to rest and gradually restore their body temperature to normal, thus preventing chills or faintness. The first cooling room, 5-10° cooler than the pack room, enabled the patron to recuperate from the intense heat of the hot bath, treatments, and hot packs. The second cooling room, kept at a normal room temperature, was the last stop before the dressing room.

Much confusion exists concerning whether the cooling room furniture had upholstery or cushions. Pictorial evidence suggests that the metal furniture in the cooling rooms was never padded. The written documentation is discussed in the "Metal Furniture" section under "General Evidence."

A photograph of the cooling room in the Maurice Bathhouse is included for comparison (figure 103).

### References:

(1) February 10, 1915, Eugene J. Stern to William P. Parks, HOSP Central Files: Changes made on the first floor during construction of the bathhouse included "Drinking fountains added in Women's and Men's Cooling room." On the second floor "Drinking fountains [were] placed in both Men's and Women's Cooling Room."

(2) February 28, 1915, Arkansas Gazette, p. 7: "The cooling rooms have white enamel easy chairs."

(3) September 23, 1930, Enclosure for form letter from Fordyce Baths to doctors in Hot Springs, HOSP: "First cooling rooms provided with enameled cots and chairs, Second cooling rooms provided with padded rest cots."

(4) August 27, 1934, Memorandum from George C. Bolton to Thomas J. Allen (regarding inspection of Fordyce prior to lease renewal), HOSP Central Files:

Paint, plaster and more paint seem to be the immediate needs with the acquisition of more modern and sanitary

furniture equipment in the cooling rooms and bath halls. It is disgusting to note that chairs and lounges have through years of usage gotten their leather covers rotted through the perspiring bathers who have used them. I don't think I would like to use this sort of equipment at all. It should be removed and new installed.

(5) August 27, 1934, Memorandum from George C. Bolton to Thomas J. Allen (regarding inspection of Fordyce prior to lease renewal), HOSP Central Files: "First floor:--On account of the financial situation at this house not much maintenance work has been done during the last two years. The house shows it, altho' some effort has been made to paint up a cooling room."

(6) c.1940s, Interview with Mr. and Mrs. John R. Fordyce, III, conducted by Carol Petravage on August 24, 1986: Mr. Fordyce recalls that white metal hat racks stood in the cooling rooms and that towels and sheets hung on them. Mr. Fordyce's recollections probably date from the 1940s to 1962. Some of the coat and umbrella racks mentioned probably went into the staterooms.

(7) 1943, Ledger Sheet, UASC: Furniture reupholstering started in April and was completed in May 1943 at a cost of \$321.50. "We had furniture in cooling rooms repaired and reupholstered not an annual expenditure." The work was probably performed by Lynch Upholstering Company.

Men's Cooling Room (119, 120, and 213). Most of these references concern the downstairs men's cooling room, rooms 119 and 120.

#### References:

(1) February 10, 1915, Eugene J. Stern to William P. Parks, HOSP Central Files: Changes made during construction on the first floor included: "Linen closet omitted, shower relocated, room enlarged, and drinking fountain changed in Men's Cooling Room."

(2) 1915, Sentinel-Record, February 28, 1915, Section 2, p. 1. This account is nearly identical to an account published in the Hot Springs New Era, February 27, 1915, p. 3: "...then to the cooling room, a room 40 by 20 feet, all furnished with porcelain enameled furniture, which is absolutely sanitary."

(3) February 28, 1915, Sentinel-Record, Section 2, p. 1, refers to the men's cooling room on the second floor, room 213: "After leaving this room, you again find yourself at the entrance of the elevator or the stairs, leading to the cooling room on the second floor, which is sumptuously furnished with sanitary equipment."

(4) 1915, Photograph (figure 37), "Cooling Room," "Fordyce Bath House," p. 15.

(5) February 21, 1929, Joseph S. Bolten to the Manager, Fordyce Bathhouse (regarding the first floor cooling room, either room 119 or room 120), UASC:

Your attention is called to the fact that the laundry on the men's side is being carried out through one of the windows in the cooling room.

Effective immediately, all laundry in the house must be taken out through the basement and must not be handled in the cooling rooms or any part of the bathhouse by anybody but the bathhouse personnel. Laundry men have absolutely no business in that part of the house devoted to bathing. Please instruct your personnel that no laundry man will be permitted to come into the bathhouse proper, and that the bathhouse personnel see that the laundry is taken to the basement. Also instruct your laundry men that the soiled linen must be taken out through the basement.

(6) April 18, 1929, Frank A. Stearns to Joseph S. Bolten (regarding "unfavorable conditions" found at the Fordyce Bathhouse), HOSP Central Files:

By investigation I find that the unfavorable conditions must have existed in the downstairs mens' cooling room and pack room as I find that these rooms were not inspected on this day between twelve and two o'clock. My instructions have been that pack room employees must keep sheets and towels picked up and must not leave these rooms at noon or afternoon until they have been put in a tidy condition. Instructions have been given to the porter Rufus, who takes the elevator for the hour from twelve to one, that he must not only watch these two racks and pick up papers, towels and sheets during this period, but also perform these same duties in the upstairs cooling rooms and the dressing rooms. The porter is also being continuously instructed that he must keep the towels and sheets picked up on the men's side during the bathing hours. Walter Davis, the regular elevator man, has been instructed and frequently cautioned to inspect the same rooms during the period between one and two and to make them tidy. He is also to inspect frequently during the day, the upstairs cooling room and the second floor toilet, so that these places may be kept in good order and supplied with drinking water, cups and toilet paper.

(7) 1930s, Interview with Glenn Spring conducted by Ellen Lasley, December 31, 1981: Mr. Spring recalls that the men's room on the front,



left side of the bathhouse was painted an off-white color, with the grills painted the same color as the walls. The transcript of the interview does not indicate to which floor Mr. Spring was referring.

(8) c.1940s, Photograph (figure 38), "Cooling Room," "The Fordyce Baths," p. 3.

Ladies' Cooling Room (105 and 206). Very little information specifically dealing with the ladies' cooling rooms has been uncovered; however, it is probably safe to assume that their furnishings were similar to the men's in every respect but quantity. One noteworthy fact is that room 206 was used to stage several photographs taken in 1915 for the booklet "Fordyce Bath House." The "State Room" (p. 15) and the "Beauty Parlor" (p. 17) were both "set up" in room 206 to give the impression that the rooms were larger and better outfitted than they really were. Some evidence indicates, however, that room 206 was used as a beauty parlor many years later. The exact dates of use cannot be pinpointed. Further documentation and more extensive discussions are contained in the beauty parlor and staterooms evidence sections.

Once again, inexplicable references to upholstered furniture appear in reference to the women's cooling room. No information has been located to give an idea of what this furniture looked like, although it may have been old furniture out of the Palace (see figures 73 and 77).

#### Reference:

(1) August 27, 1934, Memorandum from George C. Bolton to Thomas J. Allen (regarding inspection of Fordyce prior to lease renewal), HOSP Central Files:

The cooling room on first floor in the women's section should be brightened up with new furniture. This should be in the form of metal cots and chairs. In fact one of the things tending to dim the possibilities in this house is the old style and unsanitary equipment, furniture, found in all the cooling rooms. The old style upholstered furniture must give place to more sanitary equipment.



## Second Floor

Hall (200, 203). Regular female patrons who signed up for a series of baths were assigned lockers in the second floor hallway on the ladies' side (203). Female bathers would take the elevator or stairs to the second floor, pick up their towel, robe, and slippers from their locker, and proceed to the dressing room. The term "sterilizing lockers" refers to the fact that these facilities kept every bather's towel and bathing equipment separate, thus preventing the spread of germs. Lockers for male patrons were located in the men's dressing room (212).

The 1916 Cutter's Guide to Hot Springs describes similar lockers in the New Imperial and Maurice Bathhouses.

### References:

- (1) June 30, 1918, "Transcript of Original Investment Cost of the Fordyce Bathhouse as Shown on Ledgers, Pages 146-147," HOSP, included "Steel Locke[r]s Robes \$1,260.00."
- (2) February 28, 1915, Arkansas Gazette, p. 7: "A series of individual metallic robe lockers are placed in the halls."
- (3) c.1915, probably a press release, William H. Deaderick Miscellaneous Papers, p. 3, HOSP Central Files, adds that "each bather has a key to her or his locker."
- (4) February 27, 1915, Hot Springs New Era, p. 3: "By taking either of these you will land on the second floor, where will be found at the head of the landing rooms containing 1000 private sterilizing lockers, where the bathers' robes and towels are placed."
- (5) February 28, 1915, Sentinel-Record, Section 2, p. 1, continues: "thus insuring absolute privacy and sanitation of this paraphernalia."
- (6) 1938-1942, Interview with Glenn Spring conducted by Earl Adams, n.d.: Mr. Spring, who worked at the Fordyce from 1938 to 1942, remembers a row of lockers on the ladies' side near the elevator. The lockers on the men's side were near the dressing stalls. He also recalls that the two porters had supply lockers in the corner near the shoeshine stand.

### Dressing Rooms.

General (202, 207, and 212). These large rooms contained small, wooden cubicles outfitted with mirrors, bench seats, regular clothes hooks, and locking clothes hooks. The patrons checked their outer garments and umbrellas in the lobby, then came upstairs to the second floor. After retrieving their robes, towels, and slippers from the metal lockers, patrons disrobed in their own dressing cubicles. The locking clothes hooks added in 1920 guaranteed the safety of the patrons' garments while they took their baths and therapy.

Cutter's Guides to Hot Springs describe the facilities available at the other bathhouses. The Lamar Bathhouse had 75 private dressing rooms on its second floor. The Maurice contained "250 large, roomy, enamel steel dressing rooms for men and 50 for women," while in the New Imperial, the dressing rooms were "constructed entirely of marble and tile."

### References:

- (1) September 24, 1914, John R. Fordyce to Samuel W. Fordyce, JRF:

I have just closed the contract for the small dressing rooms with Mr. C. T. Abeles of Little Rock, His bid for these was \$3,855.55. The Huttig Sash and Door and Blind Company had figures that amounted to \$4,860. I told Abeles that Huttig was willing to carry this amount on your notes and that if he wanted the work he would have to do the same. This he agreed to do so there is one item which will not bother us for at least six months.

- (2) September 26, 1914, Samuel W. Fordyce to John R. Fordyce, JRF: "I am glad to note that you have closed the contract for the small dressing rooms with Mr. C.T. Abeles of Little Rock, and that he is willing to carry this bill."

- (3) January 16, 1915, Samuel W. Fordyce to John R. Fordyce, JRF:

This will acknowledge receipt of yours of the 15th inst. enclosing a note for \$3948.30 in favor of C.T. Abeles Co. of Little Rock, which is in payment for the individual dressing rooms that we have put in on the second floor. You say this is according to contract and his promise to us that he would carry it.

(4) February 10, 1915, Eugene J. Stern to William P. Parks (regarding changes made during construction of the second floor), p. 2, HOSP Central Files: "Dressing stalls relocated in Men's and Women's Dressing Rooms. Linen closets changed in Dressing rooms....Dressing Rooms next to elevator changed to closets.

(5) February 28, 1915, Arkansas Gazette, p. 7: "The dressing rooms are made of mahogany stained birch and present a pleasing effect in the apple green tinted walls."

(6) February 27, 1915, Hot Springs New Era, p. 3 (similar to a February 28, 1915, article in the Sentinel-Record, Section 2, p. 1): "From this room the patron passes to any one of 285 private dressing rooms. Then after disrobing, they take the elevator or the stairs, and are landed at the threshold of the bath department."

(7) April 1920, Statement and Trial Balance, Fordyce Bathhouse, prepared by John F. Manier, EF, includes "Betterments... (Clothes Locks)... 181.30."

(8) May 5, 1920, John F. Manier to John R. Fordyce, EF: "Enclosed find Duplicate Deposit Slip for \$66.22 which represents the Cash balance of the Net Receipts for April. \$181.30 having been paid for Betterments and charged to Investment. This was for the Dressing Booth Clothes Locks."

(9) August 9, 1920, John F. Manier to John R. Fordyce, EF:

The total amount of Dividends paid to you by Investment is \$668.99. Itemization of this will be found on the monthly statements submitted to you, showing the above amount was utilized in procuring additional new Clothes Locks, Servants Lockers and new equipment for an additional Massage room, etc.

(10) April 18, 1929, Frank A. Stearns to Joseph S. Bolten, HOSP Central Files:

Instructions have been given to the porter Rufus, who takes the elevator for the hour from twelve to one, that he must not only watch these two racks and pick up papers, towels and sheets during this period, but also perform these same duties in the upstairs cooling rooms and the dressing rooms. The porter is also being continuously instructed that he must keep the towels and sheets picked up on the men's side during the bathing hours. Walter David, the regular elevator man, has been instructed and frequently cautioned to inspect the same rooms during the period between one and two and to make them tidy.

(11) September 23, 1930, Enclosure for form letter from Fordyce Baths to doctors in Hot Springs, HOSP: The Fordyce offers "private dressing rooms on the 2nd. floor -- with patent lock garment hangers and with bolt-locked solid doors."

(12) August 8, 1948, Thomas Boles to Byron Neimeyer, UASC: "An outlet located in dressing booth 'A' above the partition is very loose. There is danger of short in the circuit from this source. Above booth 'N' the outlet is broken."

Men's Dressing Room (202 and 212). The solid wooden cubicle doors with sliding bolts found in the Fordyce Bathhouse were considered superior to the curtains supplied in cubicles in the Lamar and Buckstaff Bathhouses. Although advertisements for the Fordyce Bathhouse do not include photographs of the men's dressing rooms, photographs of the dressing rooms in the Lamar and Buckstaff are included as figures 104 and 105.

#### References:

(1) February 10, 1915, p. 2, HOSP Central Files, includes "Linen cabinets added to each end of Men's Dressing Room over Lobby."

(2) August 27, 1934, Memorandum from George C. Bolton to Thomas J. Allen, Jr. (regarding inspection of Fordyce prior to lease renewal), HOSP Central Files:

This room [front upstairs dressing room] seems to me to be superfluous under the present circumstances. There are too many dressing booths throughout the men's side of this house. If this room is not to be converted to use as a lounge, there are possibilities of its use as a place for children to be placed under the care of a maid while their parents are taking the baths. An assortment of toys and a sand pile here might develop into a feature. There is a call for some place for the kids. All bathhouses have a problem on their hands handling them....

Second floor: -- With the exception of the need of painting throughout and old style equipment this floor could stand as it is with the exception of perhaps using the front dressing room on the Men's side as a lounge which would necessitate the removal of a lot of dressing booths which seem to me to be too plentiful.



Ladies' Dressing Room (207). The original furnishings for the lounge area of the ladies' dressing room came from the Palace Bathhouse. This furniture was probably reupholstered when it was moved to the Fordyce Bathhouse. The gentlemen's parlor in the Palace provided the platform rocker, lounges, armchair, and side chair (figure 77). The nurse's rocker is very similar in style to the chairs pictured in the Palace bathing department (figure 73). The center table came from the Palace Electro-Massage Department (figure 75).

Leather furniture like this may have prompted George C. Bolton's 1934 complaint that the "chairs and lounges have through years of usage gotten their leather covers rotted through the perspiring bathers [who] have used them."

See figures 106 and 107 for photographs of the ladies' dressing rooms in the Buckstaff and the New Imperial Bathhouses.

#### References:

- (1) 1915, Photograph (figure 39), "Dressing Room," "Fordyce Bath House," p. 15.
- (2) July 17, 1958, Donald S. Libbey to Byron L. Neimeyer (Annual Inspection of Fire and Safety Hazards), UASC, includes "repairs needed on several doors to dressing booths on second floor, women's side."

Men's and Ladies' Courtyards. The men's and ladies' courtyards, accessible from the dressing rooms on the second floor, were separated by a screen for privacy. Since the electro-mechano room was used by both sexes and overlooked the ladies' courtyard, its windows were glazed with frosted glass. Evidence indicates that nude sunbathing was permitted by the 1940s and probably earlier.

#### Reference:

- (1) c.1940s, Photograph (figure 40) of ladies' courtyard, "Life Begins Again at the Fordyce," p. 4, HOSP.

Chiropody Room (205). The use of certain rooms seems to have changed both during construction and while the bathhouse was in operation. Room 205 may have been originally used as the mercury rubbing room. When the chiropody department was installed in August 1915, the mercury room moved to room 306 and the library, which had occupied room 306, was probably dispersed to other areas in the bathhouse.

The management of the Fordyce Bathhouse found the various "sidelines" (e.g. mercury rubbing, beauty parlor, massage, and chiropody) so profitable that by 1920 both the massage and chiropody departments were expanded and better equipped.

The chiropody department did not operate continuously, partly because of the difficulty of finding and keeping skilled chiropodists. By the 1930s, the demand for this service had fallen off so much that one chiropodist could take care of the work at nearly all of the bathhouses by working part time in each place.

#### References:

(1) February 10, 1915, Eugene J. Stern to William P. Parks (regarding changes in room use made during construction), HOSP Central Files: On the second floor "Men's massage room changed to men's mercury room." On the third floor "Men's Mercury Room changed to Library."

(2) September 2, 1915, John F. Manier to Samuel W. Fordyce, JRF: "In the receipts you will note that I have installed a new Department that will give some revenue:--Chiropody Department. As you will note on the statement it produced a net profit of \$22.55, for the month."

(3) July 10, 1918, John F. Manier to Samuel W. Fordyce, EF:

You will note on the Statements, that our total Net Receipts or Profit for the year is \$16,811.65 of which \$6,204.24 or about 32% was from sidelines, such as Massage, Beauty Parlors, etc. I deem it advisable to foster these Departments, and along that line will recommend and ask permission to secure proper furniture and appliances to enable us to operate a first class department of Chiropody. This can be done for about \$375.00 and I estimate it will pay over 100% of the investment.

(4) July 18, 1918, Samuel W. Fordyce to John F. Manier, Arkansas History Commission: "You are, therefore, authorized to make this expenditure."

(5) January 1919, Statement and Trial Balance, Fordyce Bathhouse, prepared by John F. Manier: "The Item Furniture & Fixtures \$170.70 was paid for the new Furniture and Equipment for the Chiropody Department."

(6) February 8, 1919, John F. Manier to Samuel W. Fordyce, EF: "By comparing this statement with January last year you will find that we are considerably bit ahead this year in Gross, and about the same amount in the Net Receipts notwithstanding the Item \$1,000.00 on account of Painting and the bill of \$170.70 for the new furniture for the Chiropody department."

(7) June 2, 1919, John F. Manier to John R. Fordyce, EF:

A matter of an Occupation Tax is being formulated by the City Commissioners, in which they propose to Tax all the Bathhouses \$5.00 per annum per each tub, and in addition, \$25.00 for each Chiropodist, \$25.00 for the Beauty Parlor, \$10.00 for each Masseur (and we employ as many as six in the big season), \$10.00 for each Mercury Rubber, Pool Table, Bowling Alley, etc.

(8) 1919, "Fordyce Bathhouse, Dividends, Year Ending June 30th, 1919" prepared by John F. Manier, EF: "Betterments consist of...installing new furniture and equipping a Chiropody Dept."

(9) July 20, 1919, John F. Manier to John R. Fordyce, EF:

Of this amount \$ 663.05 was earned by the Chiropody Department in six months. In my annual report to Col. Fordyce last year, I asked for and secured permission to purchase furniture and equipment for this particular department. We opened the Department in January and in the six months following we have earned there from the above amount. Inasmuch as the furniture and equipment cost less than \$250.00 you will see that we have made a good investment.

(10) September 15, 1919, John F. Manier to John R. Fordyce, EF:

I am also arranging to reopen our Chiropodist and Orthopedic Department, which I installed last year and which paid the house nearly \$1000.00 the first three months. The woman in charge would not stay because she said it was too hot in the Summer notwithstanding she earned nearly \$400.00 per month for her services. She will return in November, and I expect to develop this Department to such extent that we can use two Operators this coming season.



(11) March 14, 1931, George C. Bolton to Dr. Collins, HOSP Central Files:

With reference to this letter the Chiropodist Harrison was at one time in the Imperial Bathhouse. When the Fordyce needed an operator in order to give service to their patrons an arrangement was made between the then Manager a Mr. Shelby for Harrison to come there and be the operator. The arrangement between the Management of the Fordyce Bathhouse and the operator Harrison at the time was for a division of proceeds of the basis of 75% to Harrison and 25% to the Bathhouse. The Bathhouse furnishes the room and the Operator the service and the supplies.

The division of proceeds from money received for Massages is controlled by regulation on a basis of 60% to the operator and 40% to the House in which he operates.

In the case of the Fordyce there is not enough call for a chiropodist to keep him there all the time. Consequently Harrison does chiropody work in most all the bathhouses on call to him that they have a patient for him. Harrison is under the jurisdiction of this office as are other employees of the Bathhouses but the division of the spoils is not covered and seems to me to be a matter of adjustment between the Bathhouse and the Operator. The average net earnings at the Fordyce Bathhouse according to Harrison, from Chiropody is about \$30. per month. This being the case I think that the Manager there would be asking a little too much if he insists on an arrangement whereby the Bathhouse would receive greater consideration than the 25% now in effect.

(12) August 27, 1934, Memorandum from George C. Bolton to Thomas J. Allen (regarding inspection prior to the Fordyce Bathhouse lease renewal), HOSP Central Files: "The small rooms used by the Chiropodist and the Mercury Rubber are all right for uses. Equipment such as new chairs would help."

(13) March 22, 1939, John S. Harrison to George C. Bolton, HOSP Central Files:

If you will remember when I purchased my equipment November 1936, I reported to you in writing at Col. Fordyce's suggestion that I had installed a new Chiropody Cabinet, Electric Sterilizer, Electric Drill, and an Electric Oscillator, all of which you approved & which has been very helpful in my work. I am sure your files will verify this.



(14) March 24, 1939, Preston P. Patraw to Byron L. Neimeyer, HOSP Central Files:

With reference to reply made to this office by John S. Harrison, concerning an electric oscillator in use in the Fordyce Bathhouse, it is true that our records indicate that this piece of equipment was reported to us by letter of November 24, 193[?], but do not indicate that approval was given by the Superintendent.

In order to clarify the record, you are advised that approval is hereby given for the installation of this piece of equipment, with the distinct understanding that its use will be considered as part of a regular treatment for which rates have already been approved.

(15) 1938-1942, Interview with Glenn Spring conducted by Earl Adams, n.d.: Mr. Spring believes that the chair now located in the chiropody room is the original one and was never used in the beauty parlor. He also recalls that a glass cabinet in the chiropody room held tools for trimming toenails and other work.

(16) July 5, 1956, Donald S. Libbey to Byron L. Neimeyer (Report of Annual Inspection of Fire and Safety Hazards), UASC, includes "Socket and drop cord for light fixture in chiropody room needs to be replaced."

(17) June 23, 1944, Memorandum from Noble J. Wilt, Acting Supervisor of Concessions to the Director, National Park Service, HOSP Central Files: Specified chiropody rates as \$1.00 per foot, \$.50 per foot for pedicure only.

Massage Rooms (209, 210, 211, 310, and 312). Evidence indicates that the massage department in the Fordyce Bathhouse began on a small scale but was greatly expanded from 1917 to 1921. Before the partitions were erected in 1918, the mechanotherapy room included rooms 208, 209, and 210. Room 211 was probably what is referred to as "the massage department, both for ladies and for gentlemen." However, since women supposedly had "a completely equipped manicure, hairdressing and massage department" on the third floor, female patrons may have used room 211 infrequently. Physical evidence (a painted sign) indicates that room 213 may have been used as a massage room, but since no other documentation exists, determining the dates of the room's use as a massage room is impossible.

Evidence for the third floor massage department is perplexing. Newspaper articles claim that the third floor had 22 staterooms. Thirteen staterooms are located on the men's side. There are 10 small rooms on the ladies' side. Therefore, if nine of the rooms were used as staterooms, only one room is left for manicuring, hairdressing, and massage. Since this seems so unlikely, perhaps room 310, the room next to room 308 (the door of which is marked "Hairdressing/Manicuring") was used for massage but was also considered a stateroom. The early newspaper accounts and advertising copy are full of these disturbing discrepancies. To add to the confusion, a c.1936 plan of the third floor describes room 312 as the "Present Mercury Room," suggesting that (at least by 1936) mercury treatment was available to the ladies on this floor.

Very soon after opening, the demand for massage and particularly electrical massage treatments prompted the Fordyce management to increase its massage facilities. An additional incentive was that "sidelines" (massage, mercury rubbing, electrical treatments, beauty parlor, and chiropody) were extremely profitable. To provide these extra facilities, partitions were installed in the mechanotherapy room between August 1918 and June 1919 to create the present room arrangement. At the same time the management may have rearranged the beauty parlor, manicure, and massage facilities located in rooms 308, 310, and 312 to provide an additional massage room for women. The word "massage" is painted over the words "hairdressing" and "manicuring" on the door to room 308. Thus, room 308 must have functioned as a massage room after the beauty parlor was moved (probably in the late 1920s or early 1930s).

Existing documentation confirms that furniture and electrical apparatus were added in 1917, 1918, 1920, and 1921. Various kinds of electrical therapy and massage were offered at the Fordyce Bathhouse. In March of 1919, the acting superintendent enforced regulations requiring patrons to obtain a doctor's prescription for electrical treatments. This action drastically reduced the Fordyce's electrical therapy business because most of its patrons refused to consult a doctor and very few

doctors would prescribe electrical treatments. The ruling must have been a particularly hard blow to the Fordyce management since it had just finished or was in the process of installing new massage rooms complete with electrical equipment. The rule was rescinded in May or June of 1919.

The evidence does not clearly indicate whether all electrical treatment was performed in the massage rooms. Photographs of the massage department in the Palace Bathhouse (figures 74 and 75) suggest that in the Palace much electrotherapy was administered in the massage department. Figures 108, 109, and 110 show electrical equipment in the Maurice, the Buckstaff, and the Quapaw massage departments. During the early years of the Fordyce Bathhouse, the therapy performed in the massage rooms included use of infrared lamps, the violet ray machine, and the administration of faradic, galvanic, and sinusoidal current. All of these techniques were in use at least up to 1930. Eventually, electrical therapy either fell into disrepute or was moved into the hospital setting, and the massage department became limited to physical manipulation.

#### References:

(1) n.d. (pre-1915), Advertisement from Opera House Program, Hudgins Scrapbook, Item 1, p. 20:

All the name Implies  
PALAC[E] [B]ATH HOUSE  
JOHN F. MANIER, Mgr.  
[E]lectro-Massage Department

Under supervision of Prof. R.H. Stein, Kiel, Germany.  
Graduate Anatomy, Philosophy, Electro-Therapeutics and  
Massage.

Department contains -- Victor Vibrator Hanfeld's Tissue  
Oscillator, Birtman's Wall Cabinet for Galvanic, Faradic  
and Sinusoidal Currents, Interrupted or direct. Slatie  
Machine, X-Ray Resonator and High Frequency Coil.

No treatment given unless ordered by a local physician.



Although Professor Stein probably never worked at the Fordyce, the new bathhouse inherited a number of these machines. The tissue oscillator and the static machine appear in the mechanotherapy room at the Fordyce (refer to the mechanotherapy room section).

(2) February 27, 1915, Hot Springs New Era, p. 3: "On the second floor will be found massage departments for both ladies and gentlemen."

(3) February 28, 1915, Arkansas Gazette, p. 7: "The women have on this floor, a completely equipped manicure, hairdressing and massage department."

(4) 1915, "Fordyce Bath House," p. 15, HOSP: "Readily accessible on the second floor is the massage department, both for ladies and for gentlemen." Note that the photograph on page 16, "Massage Department" (figure 66), is a picture taken not in the Fordyce but in the old Palace Bathhouse.

(5) February 1917, Statement and Trial Balance, Fordyce Bathhouse, Arkansas History Commission: "14.00 is for additional massage table, and freight and drayage on the extra furniture for Beauty Parlor. This will be charged to INVESTMENT account in the Construction books."

(6) December 12, 1917, John F. Manier to Samuel W. Fordyce, EF:

With your permission I will purchase additional Electrical and Massage apparatus to equip another massage department on the ladies' side of the house. We have one set now, but last season we lost a considerable amount of business by not having two. It will cost between \$150.00 and \$200.00 to secure the proper apparatus, and this department should earn this amount back in two or three months.

(7) December 15, 1917, Samuel W. Fordyce to John F. Manier, EF:

This in reply to yours of the 12th Inst. Of course, I have no means of knowing whether or not it is advisable to purchase an additional electrical and massage apparatus. I have confidence enough in you to know that you would not want to incur this additional expense, unless it was in the interest of the house. Therefore, you have my authority to make this purchase.

(8) 1918, "Supplementary Statement #2 Showing Investment, Earnings and relative percent on Investment (for fiscal year ending June 30, 1918)," EF: Expenditures listed include "Electrical Rectifier...36.90" in January 1918, "High Frequency Electrodes...2.79" in March 1918, and "Sign for Massage Department...2.00" in June 1918.

(9) June 30, 1918, "Transcript of Original Investment Cost of the Fordyce Bathhouse as Shown on Ledgers, Pages 146-147," HOSP, includes "Electro & Mech. Dept. \$2,538.39."



(10) July 5, 1918, John F. Manier to John R. Fordyce, EF: "Relative to the proposed repairs and improvements such as painting, putting in partitions, etc. Would you advise me to speak of this to Colonel, or will you advise me relative to same."

(11) July 10, 1918, John F. Manier to Samuel W. Fordyce, EF:

Last December I secured permission from Col. S.W. Fordyce to purchase some additional electrical apparatus to enlarge our Ladies Massage Dept., but did not do so, as at that time I could not secure a satisfactory Operator for the new Department, and I take it for granted unless otherwise instructed that the permission holds good, when I deem it advisable to secure same.

(12) July 18, 1918, Samuel W. Fordyce to John F. Manier, Arkansas History Commission:

You speak of getting permission from me last December to purchase some additional electrical apparatus to enlarge the ladies' massage department, but that you did not do so as at that time you could not secure a satisfactory operator for the new department, and that you take it for granted, unless otherwise instructed, that the permission holds good when you deem it advisable to secure the same. Yes, you are right in this, but what is the use to make this expense unless you get some one to operate it?

(13) August 1, 1918, John F. Manier to John R. Fordyce, EF:

Reference to the matter of Painting and improvements such as partitions, etc. I took the matter up with Col. S.W. F. as you advised and he requested me to secure estimates, which I did and submitted same to him today's mail. These improvements will cost painting \$1775.00 and other work about 475.00. I wrote Colonel that you were familiar with the nature of the work as I had called same to your attention to it when you were here.

(14) August 1918, Statement and Trial Balance, Fordyce Bathhouse, prepared by John F. Manier, EF: Expenditures listed include "one extra handle for High Frequency Machine \$17.73" and "One each, Amber, Ruby & Violet Ray Screen."

(15) March 4, 1919, John F. Manier to Samuel W. Fordyce, EF:

Notwithstanding that Bailey suggested that we permit the matter to rock along until Dr. Parks returned, when Mr. Maurice and I conferred with him yesterday morning, late yesterday he selected the Massage and Mercury order from the rules and officially put same in force, signing his communication as Acting Superintendent. The result was a

marked decrease in business in the Massage Department today, as no person can receive Electrical treatments without a doctor prescribing same, and very few doctors prescribe electricity, and a good many of our patrons will not go to a doctor.

(16) May 7, 1919, John F. Manier to John R. Fordyce, EF:

Enclosed find Statement and trial balance of the Bathhouse Business for the month of April, showing the Profit for the month \$1,739.09, which is about \$600.00 more than the same month last year, notwithstanding that we were deprived of revenue from the massage department on account of the new adverse rule, which I have been informed will be amended in accordance with our petition, and we can expect proper returns from this department thereafter.

(17) 1919, "Fordyce Bathhouse, Dividends, Year Ending June 30th, 1919," prepared by John F. Manier, EF: "Betterments consist of, Building in and equipping with new apparatus an additional massage room on Men's side and also equipping with new electrical apparatus another Massage room on the women's side of bathhouse." Manier is referring to rooms 208 and 210 and perhaps to the transformation of room 312 from a state-room to a massage room.

(18) July 7, 1919, John F. Manier to John R. Fordyce, EF:

Your attention is called to the item of Massage \$258.53 which is the largest in the past four months by over triple. This increase is directly attributable to the removal of the adverse rule inaugurated last February. You will also note that the Mercury receipts are still low as the Government failed to correct this feature.

(19) February 1920, Statement and Trial Balance prepared by John F. Manier, EF, lists "Betterments Consist of additional new electrical apparatus for Massage Dept."

(20) November 22, 1920, John R. Fordyce to Herbert Stitt, EF:

I have delayed answering yours of the 3rd in the hope that I could tell you to go ahead on the work but after discussing the matter with Manier, we feel that we cannot take this matter up this year as very expensive overhauling will have to be done on account of the increased demand for massage and the almost absolute demand for hydroelectric treatments. We are going to take out one and install another.

(21) March 5, 1921, John F. Manier to John R. Fordyce, EF:

Your particular attention is called to the substantial increase in the Massage and Mercury Departments. This was made possible by securing additional new apparatus for an extension in these departments, and then by personal effort to increase the business in these lines.

You will note an item of Betterments amounting to three hundred eighteen dollars and ninety three cents (\$318.93). This was used in procuring new electrical apparatus and furniture for the Massage and Mercury Departments. Your attention is called to the fact that we earned net from our departments last month, separate of that earned by the baths, the amount of one thousand five hundred thirty nine dollars and twenty seven cents (\$1,539.27).

(22) c.1925-30, "Health Awaits You at the Fordyce Baths," p. 15, HOSP: "The massage department is in charge of expert operators who, through long years of experience and study, know how to obtain the proper results."

(23) June 1, 1928, Memorandum from Joseph Bolten to All Bathhouse Managers, UASC:

Your attention is invited to the fact that on and after this date, there will be no massaging under any circumstances -- of women by male masseurs, or men by female masseuses -- in the bathhouses where there are two separate departments presided over by a masseur and a masseuse. It has been called to my attention that occasionally in these bathhouses, women are massaged by men, and men by women.

I wish you would advise every one concerned. If it ever comes to my knowledge that these conditions are still in existence, there will be a suspension and possible dismissal of the persons involved.

(24) September 23, 1930, Enclosure for form letter from Fordyce Baths to doctors in Hot Springs, HOSP: Equipment available at the Fordyce Bathhouse includes "Infra-red lamps -- Violet ray machines -- Faradic current machines." The form letter, same date, also mentions "Faradic, galvanic and static current machines."

(25) c.1934-1939, Photograph (figure 41), "Skilled Massage by Licensed Attendants," "Fordyce Baths," p. 2.

(26) c.1934-1939, Photograph (figure 42), "Competent Practitioners Serve the Women's Department," "Fordyce Baths," pp. 2-3.



(27) April 12, 1944, C. Powell Fordyce to Byron L. Neimeyer, UASC:

Like Sam, I am interested in the fact that our income from massages amounted to such a large percentage of our total income. I notice from the auditor's annual report that we derived practically no income from the renting of staterooms. In view of the fact that the massage department is so important, and the renting of staterooms so relatively unimportant, do you not think that it would be a good idea to build up the massage department by letting the masseurs use some of the staterooms, and then converting the present space devoted to massage to some other purpose? My thought about this is that we ought to improve the massage department, and eliminate some of the staterooms which are not used. I would greatly appreciate your ideas on this subject, and also any reactions to this plan on the part of the Superintendent.

(28) c.1940s, Photograph (figure 44), "Massage is prominently featured at the Fordyce," "Life Begins Again at the Fordyce," p. 6.

(29) c.1940s, Photograph (figure 43), "Skilled Massage by Licensed Attendants," "The Fordyce Baths," pp. 2-3.

(30) May 31, 1952, loose ledger sheet, UASC:

- 1 Rubbing alcohol for Massage Department -- This amount will average about \$100.00 per month.
- 2 Massage oil for Massage department -- averages about \$25.00 per month.

(31) March 15, 1971, Deed of gift from Fordyce Bathhouse signed by C. Powell Fordyce to Hot Springs Boy's Club reads "gave Boys' Club 4 metal Rubbing Tables at \$40.00 total."

Mechanotherapy Room (208, 209, and 210). Until 1918-19, the mechanotherapy department occupied rooms 208, 209, and 210. When the partitions were built during 1918-19, the mechanotherapy room lost 209 and 210 to the massage department.

Many of the pieces of equipment used in the mechanotherapy room were salvaged from the massage department of the old Palace. (Compare figure 45 with figures 74 and 75.) Evidently, both men and women used the mechanotherapy room in the Fordyce Bathhouse, although it is not known



whether both sexes used the room simultaneously. In the Maurice Bathhouse, a room with a similar function was called the mechanical-massage department (figure 112).

This department seems to have fallen into disuse by the 1930s, because in 1938 the Fordyce Bathhouse proposed to install its Hubbard Tub in this room, which was full of "unused electrical apparatus." Ironically, much of the equipment used in the mechanotherapy department has since developed into the sophisticated equipment available at modern health spas.

#### References:

(1) February 10, 1915, Eugene J. Stern to William P. Parks, HOSP Central Files: Changes made during construction included "Waiting room and Department of Mechano-Therapy added over Men's Bath Hall in front of cooling tanks."

(2) c.1915, probably a press release, William H. Deaderick Miscellaneous Papers, p. 5, HOSP: "In the Mechanical Department, is the latest and best apparatus for giving mechanical exercise. Rowing, horseback and bicycle riding are imitated and with one piece of apparatus just invented, gives almost an exact reproduction of the sensation of riding in a Ford automobile going over cross-ties."

(3) February 27, 1915, Hot Springs New Era, p. 3: "...and the wonderful department of mechano-therapy, or Zander-gymnastics. In this room will be found mechanical devices for exercising in every conceivable manner."

(4) February 28, 1915, Sentinel-Record, Section 2, p. 1, adds to the above:

For instance: A mechanical horse, which will rock, trot, pace or canter, driven by an electrical motor, and the stroke of which can be regulated to go as fast or as slow as desired; row boats, where the patient can secure all of the benefits of the hydraulic rowing machine; vibrators, oscillators, machines for exercising and developing the trunk of the body, upper and lower extremities.

(5) n.d., "Beautiful Fordyce, Bathhouse Par Excellence, is Reminiscent of Old Rome's Sumptuousness," no newspaper title, Hudgins Scrapbook, item 3, p. 82, UASC. An almost identical passage is found in c.1925-30, "Health Awaits You at the Fordyce Baths," p. 15, HOSP:

Of unique interest is the mechanotherapy department -- a chamber of scientific wonders, exhibiting to the novice

every conceivable device and ingenious "Zandergymnastic" equipment. Artificial rowing and horseback devices duplicate the motions of those exercises.

(6) 1915, Photograph (figure 45), "Department of Mechanotherapy," "Fordyce Bath House," p. 16.

(7) May 19, 1916, John F. Manier to John R. Fordyce (regarding a crack in the ceiling of the men's bath hall), Arkansas History Commission:

Mr. Geo. Mann...was of the opinion that it was merely a plaster crack. This opinion was based upon examination of the floor above (in the Mechano-Therapy Department), which showed no signs of cracking. However yesterday I noticed a slight crack in the floor of this department and upon investigation today find that the crack has opened up clear across the Mechano-Therapy floor as indicated in the enclosed drawing, and this seems to be a Big Healthy Crack.

(8) n.d. (probably May 1916), John R. Fordyce to John F. Manier, Arkansas History Commission:

Yours of the 19th. I think the crack in the Men's Bath Room and the floor of the Mechano Room is due to uneven settling of the foundations. The part of the building which is on the solid rock is not going down while the part on the slate is evidently sliding. This may have been caused by breaking the wall to get in those big tanks. I would suggest that you get on some overalls and a pocket electric light and make an examination of the foundation under the crack and let me know the results. I believe that you should have some neat cement poured into the crack in the floor in the Mechano Room after having a plasterer fill up the crack in the ceiling of the Bath Room with Plaster of Paris. This will prevent moisture [from] getting into the steel reinforcing rods.

(9) September 23, 1930, Form letter from Fordyce Baths to doctors in Hot Springs, HOSP: Mechanical and electrical therapy equipment available at the Fordyce Bathhouse include

Farradic, galvanic and static current machines

"Zander" upright vibrator

"Sprague" electric oven for the entire body

"Sprague" electric oven for the limbs only

"Peristalt" massaging machine

"Zander" exercisers for stimulating and developing action in the arms and legs of paralytics and similar cases.

(10) September 23, 1930, Enclosure for form letter from Fordyce Baths to doctors in Hot Springs, HOSP: The following items were available at the Fordyce Bathhouse.

"Tissue" vibrator--(hand) vibrator exercisers -- "Zander" oscillators -- Electric "horse" exercisers -- Sprague thermal oven for the body -- Peristaltic stomach reducing machine -- static machine -- "Zander" leg exercising chair and "Zander" arm exercising chair for orthopedic conditions, etc.

(11) January 5, 1932, John R. Fordyce to Frank A. Stearns, UASC:

Will you please instruct Miss Gibson to restore the sign on the door of the Mechano Room stating that this room is for the use of the massage patients only. I see no reason why we should permit the use of this apparatus and the consumption of the electricity unless we are getting compensation for it, especially when the gymnasium is open to all the bathers.

(12) December 20, 1938, Memorandum from Arno B. Cammerer to Superintendent, HOSP, HOSP Central Files:

These approvals are still in effect. The Fordyce Bathhouse may be permitted to install the tub at any time. We understand it is the present intention to remove unused electrical apparatus from a room adjacent to the massage department and to install the Hubbard tub there. Unless you have some definite reason for objecting to that location, this office knows of none and approves it.

(13) December 29, 1938, Memorandum from George C. Bolton to the Director (NPS?), HOSP Central Files:

The site chosen for the installation of the one Hubbard-Currence underwater therapy tub by the Fordyce management is perhaps satisfactory, and whereas the utilization of the space adjoining the massage room, by excluding certain unused electrical apparatus, would give sufficient space for the tub, I still believe there would be a problem arising for consideration which entails facilities for the proper handling of those using the Hubbard tub. It would be necessary to have suitable treatment rooms as an adjunct to this installation, as it is thought unsafe to move patrons of the Hubbard-Currence tub after their treatments to the existing pack and cooling rooms which would be some distance away from the Hubbard tub installation.



### Third Floor

Assembly Room (302). The assembly room, together with the lobby, parlors, and men's bath hall, was a showpiece of the bathhouse. Special care was taken to make this space comfortable, luxurious, and distinctive. Figures 113-116 illustrate similar rooms in the Buckstaff, Lamar, and Maurice Bathhouses.

The use of the assembly room changed over the years. Originally, patrons used this room to socialize with others in their class, write letters, read, and listen to musical entertainment. By 1934, cases had been built to display John Fordyce's extensive collection of Indian and Spanish artifacts for the edification of the bathers. These objects may have been informally displayed on tables in the assembly room and writing room for several years before the decision was made to provide cabinets. Correspondence indicates that by 1940 part of the Indian collection was being sold.

When the Fordyce management purchased new furniture for the lobby, they moved the remaining original wicker lobby furniture upstairs to supplement the wicker furniture in the assembly room. During the previous 37 years, the wicker furniture had been re-covered several times. It is likely that some pieces had been damaged beyond repair and discarded, thus decreasing the amount of furniture in each room.

The earliest uses of the assembly room appear to have been a constant source of irritation to the park superintendents. The managers of the Fordyce Bathhouse interpreted the function of the bathhouse very broadly and allowed the assembly room to be used for music recitals and concerts. In 1918, Manier even allowed the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Daughters of 1812 to hold an open house in the assembly and music rooms during the biennial meeting of the Federated Women's Clubs. The park superintendents believed that use of the bathhouse should be restricted to bathing as much as possible. By the 1930s this problem seems to have been resolved, since there is no further correspondence disputing bathhouse functions.



## References:

- (1) February 28, 1915, Arkansas Gazette, p. 7:

From these rooms, the bathers return to the dressing room above, and from there to the Palm Room on the third floor. This room is without a doubt the most beautiful in the whole house. Here the bathers of both sexes meet their friends, read their letters, listen to the music, or indulge in games. The direct overhead rays of the sun are filtered through soft tinted stained glass, so that the whole ceiling appears to be studded with jewels. The furniture is of art reeds, tinted gray and upholstered in gray leather.

- (2) February 27, 1915, Hot Springs New Era, p. 3: "To the front will be found the magnificent assembly or palm room, which is 100 feet long by 20 feet wide, furnished in the most sumptuous manner. This room beggars description. It must be seen to be appreciated."

- (3) February 28, 1915, Sentinel-Record, Section 2, p. 1: "The ceiling is divided into five art glass panels, worked out in designs representing Music, Art, Science, etc."

- (4) n.d., "Beautiful Fordyce, Bathhouse Par Excellence, is Reminiscent of Old Rome's Sumptuousness," no newspaper title, Hudgins Scrapbook, item 3, p. 82. An identical passage appears in the 1915 advertising brochure, "Fordyce Bath House," p. 17:

The Assembly Hall Sumptuous. On the third floor likewise is the climax of all -- the sumptuous assembly hall, reaching across the entire front. Here, under a wonderful ceiling of art glass in five remarkable panels, amid lavish decorations and furnishings, social groups gather and listen to music of the best.

- (5) 1915, Photograph (figure 46), "Assembly Room," "Fordyce Bath House," p. 18. The same photograph (cropped in various ways) appears in the 1916 Cutter's Guide to Hot Springs, p. 23, and in the c.1916 "Maintaining a Standard," p. 6.

- (6) December 2, 1915, John F. Manier to Samuel W. Fordyce, National Archives, RG-79, 900-05, pt. 1:

The information that I desire to convey to you is, that it is a good policy for all of the bathhouses, as well as all of the other business establishments in Hot Springs, to entertain the visiting population in every conceivable legitimate manner, and do everything in our power to make their stay in Hot Springs as beneficial and pleasant as possible, and to stimulate the social interests and good fellowship of our citizens along the same lines. The cry

has gone out many times that we do not entertain our visitors, and that the proper good fellowship and harmony does not exist among our local business and professional men. These classes and social gatherings would do much along these lines, as well as promote the physical welfare of members to the gymnasium classes.

(7) January 24, 1918, John F. Manier to Mrs. William F. Lake, Arkansas History Commission:

Confirming our conversation of the 22nd inst. and to avoid any possible misunderstanding or dual assignment of Quarters by the Local Committee in charge of arrangements for the Biennial Meeting of the Federated Woman's Clubs; This is to inform you that upon the request of Mrs. S.P. Davis, State Regent of the D.A.R. thru Mrs. Jacques Manier, it affords the Management of the Fordyce Bathhouse much pleasure to grant the use of the assembly and music rooms of the Fordyce Bathhouse to the D.A.R. and Daughters of 1812 in which to keep open house in the afternoon during the convention (this permission subject to the approval of the United States Interior Department).

I desire to state further, that these rooms are also available (under the same conditions) to any of the Federated Clubs when they are not being used by the aforementioned organizations.

(8) June 10, 1918, John F. Manier to John R. Fordyce, Arkansas History Commission:

Mrs. Manier desires me to thank you for permission you granted her to take a vacation. The Club Ladies met in the Bathhouse reception room and we have many letters thanking us for the privilege, and telling us how much they enjoyed it etc. The Fordyce had the distinction of being the only house in Hot Springs that was visited by all or nearly all of the Club Ladies in an official body. All were supplied with souvenir guide books etc., and we made many good boosters.

(9) May 1918, Statement and Trial Balance, Fordyce Bathhouse, prepared by John F. Manier, EF: "The Item \$19.30 for Betterments, was for curtains and metal curtain poles for the Palm Room. These had never been supplied and were necessary. This amount will be transferred to the Investment account at the end of the year." The hardware for these curtains is still in place on the outsides of the doors of the assembly room leading into the hallway.

(10) May 1918, "Supplementary Statement #2 Showing Investment, Earnings and relative percent on Investment (for fiscal year ending June 30, 1918)," EF, includes an entry for "Metal Curtain Poles and Curtains... 19.30."

(11) c.1925-30, "Health Awaits You at the Fordyce Baths," p. 15, HOSP:

On the top floor is the beautiful sun parlor reaching across the entire front, the ceiling an art glass in five wonderful panels. Here, in an alcove, [probably room 303] is the famous collection of Indian Relics, collected by Col. John R. Fordyce. In the adjacent sunroom are, on exhibition, maps, books and other documents relative to the De Soto Expedition to Hot Springs, and data relating to the early French occupation.

A photograph (figure 47) entitled "Sun Parlor" appears in the same booklet on page 18.

(12) September 15, 1925, H.H. Julian to John R. Fordyce, UASC. Julian states that "the glass ceiling in the Sun Parlor has been cleaned and is very beautiful."

(13) September 23, 1930, Enclosure for form letter from Fordyce Baths to doctors in Hot Springs, HOSP: At the Fordyce there is a "Large Sun Parlor, together with writing, rest and reading rooms -- 3rd. floor."

(14) December 22, 1931, C. Powell Fordyce to John R. Fordyce, UASC:

Please accept my heartiest congratulations on your article about Indians in the Arkansas Gazette. The next time you write one, I suggest that more reference be made to the fact that the collection is kept at the bathhouse, and that it is open to the public at that place. My idea is to get as much free advertising for it as possible.

(15) 1932 and 1934, Quoted in May 13, 1940, Byron L. Neimeyer to C. Powell Fordyce (list of expenditures from 1932 to 1936), UASC: Itemized expenditures in 1932 include "Hot Springs Mill Work Co. (cabinet work) \$25.00" and in 1934 "Hot Springs Mill Work Co. (Cabinets for display of Indian Relics) \$200.00."

(16) c.1934-1939, Photograph (figure 48), "The Famous Sun Room and Historical Exhibits," "Fordyce Baths," p. 3.

(17) August 27, 1934, Memorandum from George C. Bolton to Thomas J. Allen (regarding inspection of Fordyce prior to lease renewal), HOSP Central Files: "There is also a display of Indian Relics in the Lounge room which is interesting, but I do not believe it belongs in a bathhouse."



(18) June 30, 1937, "Minutes of Special Directors' Meeting, Fordyce Baths, Incorporated," p. 3, UASC:

Colonel Fordyce then stated that he had temporarily loaned to the corporation all of his collection of curios and Indian relics, and that these articles had been installed in attractive cases on the third floor of the bathhouse. It was suggested by J.R. Fordyce, Jr., that Colonel Fordyce prepare statements, to be affixed to each case, identifying the various articles in the collection so as to enhance the interest of visitors.

(19) c.1940s, Photograph (figure 49), "Sun Room and Historical Exhibits," "The Fordyce Baths," p. 2.

(20) December 4, 1940, Lillian Fordyce to Byron L. Neimeyer, pp. 1-2, UASC:

In regard to the purchase of part of the Indian collection by Judge Lemley, Powell and I are agreed that what price we could get for these pieces depends wholly on what any buyer might offer, and we believe Judge Lemley's offer would be as fair as anyone would make us. So let him take the pieces he selected and <sup>will</sup> you please notify him we will accept his offer of \$72<sup>50</sup>.

(21) February 20, 1941, probably Byron L. Neimeyer to John R. Fordyce, Jr., UASC:

Judge Lemley was in this morning and picked out some more Indian pieces and left \$25.00 with me in payment of same, subject to your Mother's acceptance. I told him, I would write you and submit his offer and let him know your Mother's decision. His offer is in line with the other sales to him.

I am enclosing my check for the \$25.00 and ask that you let me know your wishes in the matter.

(22) 1944, Ledger sheet, UASC, for "upholstering F. & F. Jan-Dec. 1944" the Fordyce paid "\$143.64." An explanation on the reverse says that with this money "Slip covers purchased and leather covers replaced." This entry may also refer to reupholstering the wicker furniture in the lobby.

(23) 1946, Ledger sheet, UASC, lists "Furniture & repairs to furniture Jan-Dec \$704.21" for "Additions to lounge furniture and repairs for use in cooling rooms."

(24) July 10, 1953, Donald S. Libbey to Byron L. Neimeyer (regarding Annual Inspection of Fire Hazards), UASC: Lists "extension cord wrapped around metal fixture in museum on 3rd floor." Neimeyer responded in a July 23, 1953, letter to Libbey that this problem had been corrected.



(25) November 7, 1953, Dr. C.A. Muses to John R. Fordyce (on letterhead from The Jacob Boehme Society, Inc., Woodside, NY), UASC:

Do you still have in your collection of American anti-  
quities the strange stone disc divided into 13 divisions,  
about which you wrote to several museums some years ago?  
If so, could you have sent to us a photograph, as we  
should be most interested and appreciative, in view of a  
present project of research into ancient religions on a  
comparative basis.

A note on the bottom reads "photos mailed Nov. 19, 1953."

(26) November 14, 1953, Lillian Fordyce to Byron L. Neimeyer, UASC:

Will you be so kind as to answer the enclosed letter for  
me. Would it be asking too much to ask you to take a  
picture of this stone if it is among the Indian relics on  
the 3rd floor of the bathhouse -- as Dr. Muses suggests?  
The stone is large, round and flat. Will you in any case  
write him that John died in June '39.

(27) July 17, 1958, Donald S. Libbey to Byron L. Neimeyer (Annual  
Inspection of Fire & Safety Hazards), UASC, states that the "top of  
display cases on third floor [is] in need of cleaning."

(28) August 8, 1958, C. Powell Fordyce to Byron L. Neimeyer, UASC: "In  
talking to anybody about this matter, please be absolutely sure to point  
out that the Indian relics and other family belongings in the display  
cases on the third floor, and family records in your office, are not for  
sale."

(29) September 13, 1958, Byron L. Neimeyer to Donald S. Libbey, HOSP  
Central Files; and September 15, 1958, Memorandum from Donald S. Libbey  
to Regional Director, Region 1, HOSP Central Files: Part of description  
of the Fordyce in offer for sale: "The entire ownership, with the  
exception of the owners Indian Relic collection and personal papers, can  
be delivered to a purchaser at the price of \$175,000.00."

(30) April 21, 1965, Byron L. Neimeyer to C. Powell Fordyce, HOSP: "My  
good friend Bob Moseley and his wife were house guests of ours in  
March -- Bob...thought he might be interested in some of the Bathhouse  
Indian relics."

(31) April 23, 1965, C. Powell Fordyce to Byron L. Neimeyer, HOSP: "I  
don't believe, however, that we want to sell anything to Mr. Moseley  
unless the price he offers is so attractive that we can't afford to  
resist it."

(32) June 13, 1966, Superintendent Bernard T. Campbell to Byron L.  
Neimeyer, HOSP:

We are sorry to advise you that the Fordyce Bathhouse was  
entered for the second time in a month and burglarized.

As near as can be determined, entry was made on June 10 during the late evening hours or possibly early on the 11th via the same route as before, the drain pipe to the third floor window at the rear. The window was forced open using a "jimmy" or similar tool, possibly a heavy duty screwdriver. The same tool forced open the display cases containing the Indian artifacts and about half of the artifacts are missing as near as we can determine.

Writing Room (303). This small room adjoining the assembly room was originally used as a writing room and was probably furnished with two or three desks and chairs, stationery, and writing implements. During the late twenties and thirties the room was used to display part of Fordyce's collection of Indian and Spanish objects. After the built-in cabinets were installed in the assembly room, this small room probably reverted to a writing room. Since room 303 is a small, inside room with little natural light, it was probably never a very successful space for writing or exhibiting collections. Figure 117 illustrates a ladies' writing room in the Buckstaff Bathhouse.

#### References:

- (1) May 19, 1916, John F. Manier to John R. Fordyce, Arkansas History Commission: "There is also a crack in the ceiling in the Writing Room on the Third Floor. This crack is just in front of the Elevator and about under the Wall of the Penthouse and under the big Concrete Beam that Suspends the Elevator 'I' beams."
- (2) c.1925-30, "Health Awaits You at the Fordyce Baths," p. 15: "Here, in an alcove, is the famous collection of Indian Relics, collected by Col. John R. Fordyce."
- (3) c.1938, Interview with Glenn Spring conducted by Earl Adams, n.d.: Mr. Spring recalls that the "little room in the middle of the exhibit room" was used as a writing room and furnished with a desk and chair.

Ladies' Parlor (307). Room 307 was originally used as a ladies' parlor and music room. Samuel Fordyce, John Fordyce, and John Manier discussed extensively the acquisition of a musical instrument for this room. Everyone agreed that the bathhouse required the very best piano available, but money was tight by the end of 1914. Although renting a piano

was discussed, Samuel Fordyce ultimately decided to purchase a Knabe Grand in time for the bathhouse opening. The bathhouse management and the park superintendents continually disagreed about the appropriate use of the ladies' parlor during the first few years that the Fordyce was open. The Park Service eventually relaxed its policy since by 1920 the Fordyce management was permitted to hold recitals and concerts in their public rooms.

Between 1924 and 1934, the Fordyce management moved the beauty parlor from room 308 (its original location) to room 307. Evidence indicates that the beauty parlor was moved to room 206 after 1939 but before 1951, probably in the late forties. No existing evidence explains what room 307 was used for after the beauty shop was moved to the second floor (room 206). It probably reverted to its former use as a parlor or an extension of the assembly room. Sometime during the 1950s the beauty shop was moved back to room 307, and at that time modern formica cabinets and a special sink for washing hair were installed where the marble fountain and sink had been located. No contemporary pictures survive showing the beauty shop in its final location. Complete documentation is contained in the section on "beauty parlor."

For comparison see figure 118, a photograph of the parlor in the Maurice Bathhouse. The ladies' parlor at the Hale Bathhouse was "fitted up with reading tables, card tables, [and] dressing tables."

#### References:

(1) December 17, 1914, Samuel W. Fordyce to John R. Fordyce, JRF: "I want to take up with you and Jack the kind of musical instrument we will have on the third floor."

(2) December 12, 1914, F.B.T. Hollenberg to Samuel W. Fordyce, JRF:

Mr. Hamp Williams spoke to me about your selecting a grand piano, or some other piano, for the Fordyce Bathhouse, stating in the matter of purchase the selection would lay between a Knabe, Chickering or Steinway; and as he handled neither of these pianos he took the matter up with me....



We sell the Knabe pianos made in Baltimore, where they have been made for so many years and from which factory the reputation of the Knabe pianos has been attained. The uprights vary in price from \$500 to \$600. In this connection will say that we have some eight or ten special art styles in Knabe pianos, which range in price from \$750 to \$2000; and these instruments are on our floor in Little Rock and can be seen at any time.

We also have a large selection of grands and we can supply the grands from \$750 to \$1500. If desired, we can furnish you the player piano either in upright or grand. We can also furnish you with the marvelous Knabe Stoddard Ampico, which reproduces the music of the individual manual player; and at the same time can be used by any performer in the usual way.

(3) December 14, 1914, Samuel W. Fordyce to F.B.T. Hollenberg, JRF:

My son John's wife is a fairly good musician, as is also Mrs. Manier, the wife of my bathhouse manager. Just exactly the kind of a musical instrument that Mrs. Manier will want I don't know. I will be down at the Springs in the early part of January and will take the matter up with the Manager and his wife and determine just exactly what we will need.

(4) December 17, 1914, Samuel W. Fordyce to John F. Manier, JRF: "When I come down the early part of January I want to confer with you and your wife about some musical instruments or instruments we will need. I thought perhaps a Victrola or piano, or possibly both would be needed."

(5) December 21, 1914, Samuel W. Fordyce to John R. Fordyce, JRF: "I note that you have made arrangements to get a phonograph and that is alright, but don't do anything about a piano because if we conclude to get one I will want to get it through Hollenberg. Now don't agree to take a piano from anywhere."

(6) December 24, 1914, John R. Fordyce to Samuel W. Fordyce, JRF:

In regard to the piano. Mr. Manier and I both agree that, if you are going to buy a piano, that you should get the very highest grade. And, if you are not, simply let us rent one at \$3.00 per month, as the Arlington does. We can then buy the piano later. Of course, we do not want to pay a first-class price and get a second or third grade piano, such as the Little Rock firm you mentioned would sell us.



(7) December 24, 1914, John R. Fordyce to Samuel W. Fordyce, JRF:

I note what you say about the piano and will not do anything towards that until we have taken the matter up with Mr. Hollenberg; he, however, does not handle the best makes of pianos and I believe it would be a mistake to buy anything else for this place. Why wouldn't it not be a good proposition simply to rent one until the money markets get easier or until it was demonstrated that we could afford to buy one.

(8) January 21, 1915, Samuel W. Fordyce to John R. Fordyce, JRF: "Now in regard to the piano. I think the best thing to do for the present is to rent a piano, if this can be done, as you say at \$3.00 per month. At any rate we will let the piano matter rest unless you can rent one for \$3.00 or even \$5.00 per month."

(9) February 13, 1915, F.B.T. Hollenberg to Samuel W. Fordyce, JRF:

Mrs. Manier called yesterday and selected a magnificent Knabe Grand for the Fordyce Bathhouse as per your instructions. I want to say that this charming lady is absolutely one of the best traders I have ever seen, and my business career covers many years and the meeting of many good traders, but I take my hat off to her as being the best of them all.

Enclosed you will find bill for the piano at \$850.00 which is the agreed price, subject to the following terms: -- 10% for cash on or before March 1st; and a further allowance of 15% on the net amount for commission and advertising, making if paid for between now and March 1st the net sum of \$650.25. If not paid for by then the discount of \$85.00 for cash will not apply.

(10) February 25, 1915, Samuel W. Fordyce to F.B.T. Hollenberg, JRF:

Acknowledging receipt of yours of the 13th inst. in which you say that if a certain piano purchased for the Fordyce Bathhouse by Mrs. Manier, the cost of which you name is \$650.25, must be paid for on or before the 1st of March, proximo, beg to say that I am enclosing to you in this my check on the Boatmen's Bank, this city, for the sum named, \$650.25.

While I feel that I could have made a much better purchase of a piano equally as good for much less money, yet on account of my personal relations with you, I am glad to meet your views and pay for this piano, the price named by you.

(11) February 26, 1915, F.B.T. Hollenberg to Samuel W. Fordyce, JRF:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 25th inst., enclosing check for \$650.25, and I have asked the treasurer to make up a statement in accordance therewith, as requested by you, and to send it along to you. Permit me to thank you again for your esteemed kind opinion and your favors.

In the matter of price, as I told you in our consultation at Little Rock, we have given you extraordinary value and others that were offered, are more or less sour grapes or actual mis-statements. I am satisfied that the instrument you have cannot be excelled at any price, and I shall sleep well nights knowing that I have given you and the "Fordyce," not only full value for the price paid, but even more than that, and I know that when it comes to such a condition as that, you are entirely satisfied; as we all must live and nobody wants the people to live happier or better than you want everybody to do.

(12) June 21, 1915, Samuel W. Fordyce to John R. Fordyce, JRF: "In this please find enclosed receipt from the O.K. Houck Piano Co. \$40.00. I wish you would get this matter straightened up, pay them in full and have Jack take it up as charged against the Bathhouse. Please do this as these little things annoy me very much."

(13) February 28, 1915, Sentinel-Record, Section 2, p. 1: "To the south of this room is the ladies' parlor, which is supplied together with the other handsome furnishings, a Concert Grand piano. At the north end is the gentlemen's parlor, which contains a billiard and pool table. Both of these parlors are supplied with large open fireplaces."

(14) February 27, 1915, Hot Springs New Era, p. 3: "To the south of this room is the ladies' parlor, which is supplied, together with the other handsome furnishings, a concert grand piano, also Victrola.... Both of these parlors are supplied with large open fireplaces, marble fountains for hot and cold water."

(15) 1915, Photograph (figure 50), "Music Room," "Fordyce Bath House," p. 19. The same photograph appears in "Maintaining a Standard," c.1916, p. 5, and in "Health Awaits You at the Fordyce Baths," c.1925-30, p. 12.

(16) 1915, "Fordyce Bath House," p. 17: "Opening to the south is a ladies' parlor and music room, with the gentlemen's parlor and billiard room at the other extreme. These are twin models of luxury, and on cool evenings are made even more enticing by cheerful fires on the open hearths."

(17) c.1916, "Maintaining a Standard," p. 5, states that "the most delicate tints were used in decorating the walls and ceiling of this recreation room."

(18) December 2, 1915, John F. Manier to Samuel W. Fordyce, National Archives, RG-79, 900-5, pt. 1:

He also called my attention to the fact that a short time prior to the bowling party, we had given a reception in the music room of the Fordyce Bathhouse, in honor of the celebrated violin virtuoso, Mme. Maude Powell, who was a visitor in our city, and a guest of the Fordyce. I assured the Superintendent that I was not aware that any rule had been broken, and that we had simply entertained this prominent visitor to our city as a matter of civic pride, but he gave me to understand that he would not permit me to give any musical reception of any sort. I explained to him that before I had this knowledge from him, I had given permission to a local musical organization to give a recital. He told me that he would permit this one, but not to do so again, which we have not. However, I am informed that such recitals are being given by one of the other bathhouses.

(19) December 6, 1915, John F. Manier to William P. Parks, HOSP Central Files; and November 20, 1916, John F. Manier to William P. Parks, HOSP Central Files: Mrs. Berberich was granted permission to use the music room for a piano recital on December 11, 1915, and on November 25, 1916.

(20) January 13, 1920, John F. Manier to Director, National Park Service, c/o William P. Parks, National Archives, RG-79, 900-05, pt. 2:

With your approval we desire to have musicians play so called "Classic" or high grade music in the Fordyce Bathhouse, also to give musical concerts in the Music Room.

It is understood that no charge is to be made; this feature being solely for the entertainment of our guests and patrons, to assist in making their stay in Hot Springs an enjoyable one.

(21) January 14, 1920, William P. Parks to Director, National Park Service, National Archives, RG-79, 900-05, pt. 2: Recommends that the Director deny the Fordyce and Buckstaff Baths permission to provide music in the bathhouses.

(22) February 4, 1920, William P. Parks to John F. Manier, HOSP Central Files:

Referring to your request of January 13 for permission to provide music in the Fordyce Bathhouse, will state that I am in receipt of a letter from the Director of the National Park Service, dated January 29, which authorizes me to grant permission to sa[id] bathhouse to furnish music and concerts for the entertainment of guests and patrons under the following conditions:



"Only high-class music is to be sung or played, the so-called jazz and similar kind being barred.

"They must furnish you weekly a list of the entertainments given during the weeks with programs if any, so that the quality of music furnished may be reviewed. This list should be furnished in duplicate, a copy being furnished the Service and a copy retained for your files.

"No public invitations are to be issued, nor the fact advertised that such concerts or entertainments are furnished.

"No charge is to be made the patients or patrons for these entertainments.

"It shall be understood that this permission is revocable at any time."

(23) February 6, 1921, Manager G.E. Hogaboom, Buckstaff Bathhouse, to Superintendent, HOSP, National Archives, RG-79, 900-05, pt. 2. The Fordyce management was required to provide a similar list of music to the superintendent. This music is probably typical of the music played at the Fordyce Bathhouse:

The following is a list of music played during the concerts given in the Buckstaffs Baths during week ending Sunday, February 6, 1921.--

Tents of Araba	Intermezzo
Dreamy Amazon	Waltz
In Poppyland	Caprice
Nymphs of the Nile	Air de Ballet.
Let Me Dream	Waltz
Why Don't You	Selection from Afgar
Sleepy Hollow	Waltz
The American Ace	March
Novelty One Step	By Silver
Moonlight on the Nile	Egyptian Valse
Drifting Along	Intermezzo
Noahs Wife, Dark Ages	Selection
Idyl D'Amour	Selection
A Dream of Your Smile	Song
My Rainbow Girl	Selection
Sunshine of your Smile	Saxaphone Solo
Zoma	Egyptian Intermezzo
Margie	Song
Beautiful Annabelle Lee	Waltz
My Dreamy Little Lotus	Selection
Flower	
Just Like a Gypsy	Waltz
Avalon	Song



Wishing Land	Reverie
Sweet Lavender	Intermezzo
Humming	Fox Trot
Romance	Selection
Dear Old Pal of Mine	Saxophone Solo
Step It	One Step
Darling	Oriental
Butterflies	Mercean Mignon

(24) February 29, 1924, Talbot P. Shelby to Superintendent C.H. Waring, HOSP Central Files: Announces that a piano recital will be held in the parlors of the bathhouse.

(25) March 1, 1924, C.H. Waring to Talbot P. Shelby, HOSP Central Files:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of February 29, 1924, advising of the recital to be given today by the pupils of Mrs. J.M. Frisby in the Fordyce Bathhouse.

You are advised that no advertising of musical programs in any manner will be permitted. There is no objection to music in the bathhouses during bathing hours, but the advertising of any musical organization, director or person as giving the program is not permissible. This particular recital mentioned in the "society column" of a daily paper is not approved, but will be allowed to take place in order that the artists giving same may not be embarrassed. Further action along these lines, however, will not be permitted.

Gentlemen's Parlor (338). Room 338 was originally a men's parlor or smoking room and contained a billiard table, a victrola, and game implements. Similar facilities for smoking, reading, and writing were available for the men in the other bathhouses. See figures 119 and 120 for photographs of the den and figure 121 for a photograph of the billiard room in the Maurice Bathhouse. By 1934, room 338 was being used as an office by John Fordyce. Possibly room 338 was converted to an office at the same time room 307 was made into a beauty parlor. By 1955, Byron Neimeyer, the manager of the Fordyce Bathhouse, had taken over this space for his office. An oil portrait of Samuel W. Fordyce hung in room 338 until 1955, when it was shipped to C. Powell Fordyce. It is not known when the portrait was placed in the room.

These changes in use indicate two important trends. Lounge space could be used for offices and beauty parlors, indicating that by the 1930s lounge space was not in great demand by the patrons. Perhaps the patrons were staying for a shorter period of time or leaving the bathhouse immediately after their baths, indicating a change in the social function of the bathhouse. Second, these spaces were converted into revenue-producing areas -- the ladies' lounge into a beauty shop and the men's lounge into an office for the owner, so that he would not have to rent an office elsewhere. Thus, during the 1930s, when bath receipts were very low, the Fordyce management tried to remain solvent by upgrading and diversifying the bathhouse facilities.

#### References:

- (1) December 19, 1914, John R. Fordyce to Samuel W. Fordyce, p. 2, JRF:  
In regard to the musical instruments. When you were here you told me to see to this and I have made arrangements with the Houck Music Store of Little Rock to take a phonograph and have had them send it up to the house in Little Rock so that Lillian could pick out the right kind of records. My idea was that we might swap some of the records that we have out at the house here and thus get some new ones there and at the same time be able to give the bathhouse the benefit of a larger selection [than] we had at the house. Of course I do not mean to take any of your favorites away from the house.
- (2) February 28, 1915, Arkansas Gazette, p. 7: "At either end of this central room are smaller rooms with open fireplaces, one end for men, to be used as a smoking room, the other for women, to be used as they see fit. Both have hot and cold water drinking fountains."
- (3) February 28, 1915, Sentinel-Record, Section 2, p. 1: "At the north end is the gentlemen's parlor, which contains a billiard and pool table. Both of these parlors are supplied with large open fireplaces."
- (4) February 27, 1915, Hot Springs New Era, p. 3: "Parlors are supplied with large open fireplaces, marble fountains for hot and cold water."
- (5) 1915, Photograph (figure 51), "Billiard Room," "Fordyce Bath House," p. 19.
- (6) January 7, 1916, John F. Manier to Samuel W. Fordyce, JRF: Purchased in December 1915 were "1 Tube Billiard Cue Cement .15, 1 Box

[Billiard Cue] Tips .60, [and] 1 Gross [Billiard Cue] Chalk 2.25." An entry for "Four Gra[ma]phone records 3.43" was also included.

(7) February 1916, "Expense Account," JRF, lists a purchase from the Brunswick-Balke Callender Company of "1 set green pockets for billiard table 1.00."

(8) January 12, 1933, Elizabeth M. Gibson to John R. Fordyce, HOSP Miscellaneous Files:

...also if you don't come back I am sure there are some things in your files upstairs that are not public property and you might want me to have a housecleaning there or at least send some of the files out to the house. If you do come back, and I stay with you we can go through them together.

(9) August 27, 1934, Memorandum from George C. Bolton to Thomas J. Allen (regarding inspection of Fordyce prior to lease renewal), HOSP Central Files: "On the other end of the lobby there is an office room which I believe [was] used by Col. Fordyce." (This quote refers to room 338. The assembly room is called a lobby in this document.)

(10) September 19, 1955, C. Powell Fordyce to Byron L. Neimeyer, UASC: "At your convenience will you please have someone in the Bathhouse make a good wooden crate for the oil painting of Grandfather, which is in your office, and then send it to me. Let me know how much all of this costs and I will repay the Bathhouse for the expense."

(11) October 6, 1955, C. Powell Fordyce to Byron L. Neimeyer, UASC: "I am writing to let you know that the portrait of Grandfather arrived in perfect condition. It was beautifully packed. Many thanks for your kindness. Please be sure to send me a bill for the expense of packing."

Beauty Parlor (308, 307, and 206). The beauty parlor is a difficult room to track for several reasons. First, it operated in at least three different locations, and the evidence is insufficient to indicate exactly when each move was made. Second, the photographs of the beauty parlor are notoriously unreliable. Third, the beauty parlor was not in continuous operation from 1915 to 1962.

The beauty parlor was probably originally located in room 308, together with manicure facilities. The words "hairdressing" and "manicuring" are barely visible through a layer of paint later added to the door to room 308. Between 1924 and 1934 the beauty parlor was moved into room 307,



the former ladies' parlor or music room. This move may have occurred in 1928, since the beauty shop was not operating for most of 1927 and a "formal opening" of the Fordyce Beauty Shop was held in January 1928. "Health Awaits You at the Fordyce Baths," published in the late 1920s, contains a photograph of the beauty parlor taken in room 307 (see figure 53).

During World War II, the Fordyce management had difficulty finding qualified beauty operators, since all labor was scarce. The beauty parlor was not in operation during 1943, and financial records indicate that it may have been closed for parts of 1942, 1944, and 1945. Perhaps during this period the beauty parlor was moved to room 206. The beauty parlor was definitely located in room 206 by 1951, when a picture of this room in use appeared in Holiday magazine (figure 56).

Sometime during the 1950s, the beauty parlor was moved back to room 307. No contemporary pictures have been located to document this final move. A modern hairdressing sink and formica cabinets survive in room 307 in the space formerly occupied by the marble water cooler. Therefore, room 307 must have been the final location of the beauty parlor.

Figure 122 is a photograph of the beauty parlor in the Buckstaff Bathhouse in 1915.

#### References:

- (1) February 27, 1915, Hot Springs New Era, p. 3: "Two other original features of the Fordyce will be found in the beauty parlor, with complete equipment for hair dressing, face massage, manicuring, etc."
- (2) February 28, 1915, Arkansas Gazette, p. 7: "The women have on this floor [the third floor], a completely equipped manicure, hairdressing and massage department."
- (3) 1915, Photograph (figure 52), "Beauty Parlor," "Fordyce Bath House," p. 17. Also in an advertisement for the Fordyce beauty parlor in Hot Springs New Era, n.d., Hudgins Scrapbook, item 3, p. 101, UASC.
- (4) February 1916, "Expense Account," JRF: "Pd. to Geo. T. Schmelzel .50 for work on hair dryer."



(5) February 1917, Statement and Trial Balance, Fordyce Bathhouse, Arkansas History Commission: "14.00 is for additional massage table, and freight and drayage on the extra furniture for Beauty Parlor. This will be charged to INVESTMENT account in the Construction books."

(6) December 12, 1917, John F. Manier to Samuel W. Fordyce, EF: "You will recall that last year we increased our equipment for the 'Beauty Shop' and it doubled our earnings in that department."

(7) September 15, 1919, John F. Manier to John R. Fordyce, EF:

While in Chicago recently I visited the Marenello School of Beauty Culture, and they assured me that they would supply me with a couple of expert operators in this line for the coming season for our Beauty Parlor. They have a wonderful establishment in the Maller Building on Madison St. I hope to develop our Beauty Department to make it as profitable as our Massage Department.

(8) August 4, 1922, John F. Manier to C.H. Waring, HOSP Central Files: Asks permission to employ Mrs. W.C. Green and daughter Miss Lethel Green as hairdresser, manicurist, and facial masseuse. Permission granted in an August 9, 1922, letter from C.H. Waring to John F. Manier (HOSP Central Files).

(9) January 20, 1926, H.H. Julian to Dr. Joseph Bolten (regarding prices for approval in the operation of the beauty parlor), HOSP Central Files: Prices listed are for beauty parlor services including "Shampoo...Marcel...Round Curl...Water Wave...Manicure...Hot Oil Shampoo...Scalp Treatment...Henna Rinse...Egg Shampoo...Henna Packs...Dye...Bleach...Singe...Plain Facial...Packs [Facial]...Haircut...Eye arch...[and] Dry Shampoo...." Rates were approved in a January 22, 1926, letter from Joseph Bolten to H.H. Julian (HOSP Central Files).

(10) November 27, 1927, "Memorandum of Agreement" signed by (Mrs.) Joel Ernsberger:

Said Beauty Shop I intend to operate on a percentage basis 40% to the Fordyce Bathhouse and 60% to the operator on all money taken in from customer to said Beauty Shop., each party agreeing to stand the following expenses from their percentage of earnings.

The Fordyce Bathhouse pays for the expense of operating the Beauty Shop such as, lights, water, heat, gas, telephone, laundry.

The operator to pay for all cosmetics, combs, brushes, manicure supplies, curling irons and barber tools, also operator to supply all towels, and aprons.

Prices customers are to pay are as follows. [Items in brackets appear handwritten on the original.]

Marcel	- -	\$1.25	[\$1.00]
Shampoo	- -- -	.75	
Finger Wave	- -	1.25	
Manicure, Ladies	-	.75	
" Gents	-	1.00	[.75]
Henna Packs	- -	3.00	
Bleach Packs for Hair		3.50	
Plain Facials	-	1.50	[1.00]
Facials Packs & Massage		2.00	to \$3.50
Hair Cutting	-	.50	
Comb Wave	- -	1.25	
Round Curl	- -	1.00	
Dyes two bottles		5.00	first, \$2.00 second.
Permanent Wave, flat or round wrap		\$15.00	
" " Cone shape wrapping		\$18.00	
Eyebrow arching	-	.75	
Eyebrow or eyelash dye		1.50	
Hair bleach for limbs		5.00	

(11) November 29, 1927, Joseph Bolten to Manager, Fordyce Bathhouse, HOSP Central Files: Approves employment of Mrs. Joel Ernsberger providing she reduce her rates as follows: "Marcel, from \$1.25 to \$1.00; Manicure, for gentlemen, from \$1.00 to \$0.75; [and] Plain facial, from \$1.50 to \$1.00." Rates were reduced according to a December 7, 1927, letter from H.H. Julian to Joseph Bolten (HOSP Central Files).

(12) January 12, 1928, Initials illegible, Fordyce Bathhouse, to Mrs. S. Mattar, UASC:

The Fordyce Beauty Shop invites you to attend its formal opening at the Fordyce Bathhouse on Monday, January Sixteenth, Nineteen Hundred and Twenty Eight....

The hours on our opening day will be from nine o'clock until five o'clock in the evening and each caller will be given a favor. We hope that you will be among our guests on Monday.

(13) c.1925-30, Photograph (figure 53), "Beauty Parlor," "Health Awaits You at the Fordyce Baths," p. 17, HOSP. The beauty parlor is described in the brochure on p. 16: "Opening to the south is the Ladies' Beauty Parlor, completely equipped and in charge of an experienced operator."

(14) 1934-1936, Expenditures quoted in May 13, 1940, Byron L. Neimeyer to C. Powell Fordyce, UASC: Expenditures include "Arnold Barber Supply Co. (Beauty Shop Equip.) \$35.00" in 1934, "L.R. Barber Supply Co. (Beauty Shop Equipment) \$89.70" and "Arnold Barber Supply Co. (Beauty Shop Equipment) \$80.70" in 1936.

(15) August 27, 1934, Memorandum from George C. Bolton to Thomas J. Allen (regarding inspection of Fordyce prior to lease renewal), HOSP Central Files: "Third Floor:--On the women's side and off the lounge there is a beauty parlor. This should be brought up to date in the matter of equipment."

(16) 1938-42, Interview with Glenn Spring conducted by Earl Adams, n.d.: Mr. Spring remembers that the beauty shop on the third floor was in operation during the late 1930s.

(17) c.1940s, Photograph (figure 54), "Beauty Shop in Ladies Department," "The Fordyce Baths," p. 2.

(18) c.1940s, Photograph of beauty parlor (figure 55), "Life Begins Again at the Fordyce," p. 4.

(19) August 14, 1944, Byron L. Neimeyer to John W. Emmert, HOSP Central Files: "We ask your approval to resume services and operation of our Beauty Parlor."

(20) August 26, 1944, Memorandum from George C. Bolton to Regional Director, Region 3, National Archives, RG-79, 900-06, pt. 1: "The Fordyce Bathhouse had voluntarily discontinued such services some time ago as they were unable to get a satisfactory operator. They have now obtained the services of a competent beautician and will again have this service available at their bathhouse."

(21) August 30, 1944, Memorandum from Regional Director M.R. Tillotson to Director, National Park Service, HOSP Central Files:

There is enclosed a copy of Acting Superintendent Bolton's memorandum of August 26 in which he recommends approval of the attached rate schedules for the beauty parlor at the Fordyce Bathhouse at Hot Springs National Park. In this I concur.

[Enclosure]

Beauty Parlor [The Admiration Treatment, Parker Herbex Treatment, Red Henna Pack, White Henna Pack, Oil Bleach, and Hair Tinting are marked "Finger Wave extra" on the original.]

Shampoo (plain)	\$.1.00
Finger wave	1.00
Shampoo (plain) and Finger Wave	.1.25 - 1.50
Oil Shampoo	.1.75 - 2.00
Oil Shampoo and Finger Wave	.1.75 - 2.00
Admiration Treatment	2.00
Parker Herbex Treatment	2.50
Red Henna Pack	2.50
White Henna Pack	3.00



Oil Bleach . . . . .	3.00		
Hair Tinting . . . . .	4.00	-	5.00
Color Rinses . . . . .			0.25
Lacquer . . . . .			0.25
Hair Combing . . . . .			0.50
Hair Cutting . . . . .	0.75	-	1.00
Neck Trim . . . . .			0.50
End Curls . . . . .	0.35	-	0.50 (ea)
Permanent Waves . . . . .	8.00	-10.00	-12.00
Cold Waves . . . . .	15.00	-20.00	-25.00
Arch . . . . .			0.75
Lash Dye . . . . .			1.00
Lash and Brown Dye . . . . .			1.50
Facial . . . . .	2.00	-	3.00
(Pack extra) . . . . .			0.50
Manicure . . . . .	1.00	-	1.25
(Polish change after application-each nail)			0.10
Polish Change . . . . .	0.50	-	0.75

A letter from Donald S. Libbey to Byron L. Neimeyer dated September 14, 1944 (UASC) states that these rates were approved by the Acting Director, National Park Service, on September 4, 1944.

(22) 1948, Ledger sheet, UASC, includes an entry for "Equipment Purchases: 321.91/Hair dryer/rubber tired truck & interoffice communication system."

(23) 1948, Audit Report compiled by Russell Brown & Co., UASC: Listed under the heading "Funds Applied To," "Purchase of Hair Dryer 114.50."

(24) c.1938-42, Interview with Glenn Spring conducted by Earl Adams, n.d.: Mr. Spring reports that the lounge or former beauty shop was located next to the dressing room on the second floor, ladies' side. The transcript of the interview does not indicate whether Mr. Spring is referring to the beauty parlor's location during the early 1940s or at the time the bathhouse closed.

(25) 1951, Photograph of beauty parlor (figure 56), "Hot Springs," Holiday, January 1951, p. 41.

(26) November 5, 1952, Byron L. Neimeyer to C. Powell Fordyce, UASC: "We do not at present operate the Beauty Shop...."

(27) September 17, 1954, Downs Fordyce to Byron L. Neimeyer, UASC:

I'd like to make this suggestion. Could the corner room on the 3rd Floor (the Beauty Shop is still on the 2nd, isn't it?) on the Ladies side be made into a summer dressing room with air conditioning unit? It would not be large and would use a small unit of air conditioner -- would it be adequate? It appears to be a lounge and not



too needed as such. There must be such a room on the men's side, too. Then, no wall would have to divide the main dressing rooms.

Staterooms (310 and 312-319 on the ladies' side and 323-330 and 332-336 on the men's side). Staterooms provided the patrons with a private place for a nap and a larger and more comfortable place to get dressed after their baths and therapy. The staterooms varied in size but probably all contained a very spartan complement of furniture consisting of a white enameled metal bed (with mattress, sheets, blanket, and pillow), a metal dresser with mirror, a metal armchair, and a coat rack. Rooms 310 and 312 currently have sinks; however, since these sinks are not the same style as the sink in room 308, these may have been added when these staterooms were converted to massage rooms, probably during the first few years of operation. On the other hand, some of the advertisements for the Fordyce claim that the staterooms have hot and cold running water; therefore, the sinks in rooms 310 and 312 may be original. Other claims in these advertisements, for example for telephones, have not been substantiated by impartial evidence.

A c.1936 plan of the Fordyce Bathhouse indicates that room 312 was used as a "mercury room" at that time. Whether 312 had been a mercury room since 1915 has not been determined. Presumably, this mercury room catered to female patrons.

During and immediately after World War II, hotel rooms were scarce because Hot Springs acted as a Rehabilitation Center for returning troops, and evidence suggests that some people were taking the baths and sleeping in their staterooms by day and "carousing" all night!

#### References:

(1) February 10, 1915, Eugene J. Stern to William P. Parks, HOSP Central Files: Changes made to the third floor during construction included "Shower and Toilet omitted in Men's Private Dressing Room. Plan of Men's and Women's private dressing rooms changed. Floors changed from tile to wood in dressing rooms."

(2) February 28, 1915, Sentinel-Record, Section 2, p. 1: "On this floor [third floor] will be found 22 private staterooms, 8 by 12 feet, supplied with white enameled bed, dresser and chair, telephones, running hot and cold water, service of valet and maid, etc., where the most fastidious can secure satisfactory accommodations."

(3) February 28, 1915, Arkansas Gazette, p. 7: "On this floor are located the private dressing rooms. In these a bather can lie down on a neat white bungalow bed and have his own dresser and toilet articles."

(4) Probably 1914, Proof ad from The St. Louis Times, Hudgins Scrapbook, Item 3, pp. 74-75, UASC: "In addition to regular bathhouse features it has... fifty staterooms supplied with running hot and cold water, telephones, etc." This account is unreliable since the Fordyce Bathhouse has never had 50 staterooms.

(5) 1915, Photograph (figure 57), "State Room," "Fordyce Bath House," p. 15. The brochure mentions that "Bed, dresser and chairs are beautiful white enameled metal."

(6) August 27, 1934, Memorandum from George C. Bolton to Thomas J. Allen (regarding inspection of Fordyce prior to lease renewal), HOSP Central Files: "The staterooms on both the men's and women's side need plastering and painting. The equipment such as beds and chairs should also have attention."

(7) c.1934-1939, Photograph (figure 58), "A Typical Private State Room," "Fordyce Baths," p. 2.

(8) c.1936, "Proposed Alteration of Fordyce Bathhouse," plans drawn by Eugene John Stern, Inc.: Room 312 on the third floor plan is labeled "Present Mercury Room."

(9) February 19, 1937, Byron L. Neimeyer to Donald S. Libbey, HOSP Central Files: Requests reduction of rates for staterooms as follows. "21 days \$5.00, 10 days 2.50, 5 days 1.25, 1 day .25."

Rates approved in a February 23, 1937, letter from Donald S. Libbey to Byron L. Neimeyer (HOSP Central Files).

(10) February 23, 1937, Donald S. Libbey to Byron L. Neimeyer, HOSP Central Files:

This letter is to confirm my conversation with you on February 19 concerning the use of private dressing rooms in the Fordyce Bathhouse. As indicated in my conversation, several protests have come from other bathhouse managers that possibly your bathhouse has used the existence of such facilities as a means to influence bathers to bathe at the Fordyce Bathhouse and that you have granted the facilities of the private dressing rooms without charge....

In the event it appears, in the future, that continued gratuitous use of the dressing rooms prevails, it will be necessary for this office to either require the private dressing rooms be closed -- sealed -- or for this office to recommend to the Service that a higher rate prevail for all baths at the Fordyce Bathhouse.

I sincerely trust that neither of these two alternatives will be necessary and I feel confident that you will cooperate to the fullest extent in the problem. Should you have individuals applying for baths at your bathhouse, which, in your opinion, should be entitled to complimentary baths, I shall be glad to grant such requests, with the request being understood to include the use of a private dressing room.

(11) c.1939-1942, "Life Begins Again at the Fordyce," HOSP Curatorial Files: "The Fordyce also features private staterooms for resting after the bath. Many physicians want their patients to have a nap after the bath and you will feel better in your own private room."

(12) April 15, 1944, Byron Neimeyer to C. Powell Fordyce, UASC:

In regard to the use of staterooms for expansion of our massage departments, we will certainly make use of these rooms for that purpose, if the present locations become inadequate. We are nearly to that point on the women's side of the bathhouse, but have more space available adjacent to the massage rooms on the men's side, without using the staterooms.

(13) December 20, 1946, Byron L. Neimeyer to Thomas Boles, HOSP Central Files: Requests increase in stateroom charges to \$.50 per day because of "increased cost of cleaning, laundry and maintenance." The increase was approved in a February 12, 1947, memorandum by Acting Park Service Director Hillory A. Tolson.

(14) February 3, 1947, Memorandum from Thomas Boles to Regional Director, Region 3 (regarding the request for the Fordyce management to increase their rates), National Archives, RG-79, 900-06, pt. 1:

<u>Bathhouses having Staterooms</u>	<u>No. of Rooms.</u>	<u>Revenue derived 1946.</u>
Fordyce Bathhouse,	17,	\$ 618.50
Maurice Bathhouse,	34,	993.75

These staterooms are small cubicles located on the top floors of the bathhouses and have a single bed or cot with sheets and blankets. They are in demand from mostly old timers who like to go there after their baths and massages and rest or sleep. The additional costs in



laundry and personal services of those who kept the rooms in order justify the requested rates. While it could not well be proven there was a suspicion that certain persons would take a stateroom during the day at the very reasonable price under which they were held, have their baths and do their sleeping during the day and then run around most all night. The housing shortage here is acute and hotel accommodations very hard to get.

Gymnasium (321). The gymnasium was a popular feature at the Fordyce and the largest gym in Hot Springs when the bathhouse opened. The management originally hoped to use the gym facilities to draw northern baseball teams to the Fordyce. Although there is no evidence that baseball teams came, there is evidence that famous prize fighters came to the Fordyce to take the baths and train in the gym. The Lamar and the Buckstaff Bathhouses also had gymnasiums (figure 123), and the Maurice Bathhouse had two gymnasiums, one each for men and women (figure 124).

From the time the bathhouse opened, the management attempted to get permission to hire a "physical culture director." Because of complaints from the smaller bathhouses that having such a director and offering classes would be unfair competition, this permission was not granted until 1923. Physical culture directors were employed, although probably not continuously, until at least 1932.

Considerable discussion went on over the years about whether the gymnasium should be made available (for a fee) to persons not bathing at the Fordyce. Apparently, non-bathers were occasionally allowed to participate in physical culture classes in the gym, but generally the use of the gym was restricted to Fordyce patrons. The Fordyce management tried to get permission to allow returning servicemen to use the gym for a small fee in the mid-1940s, but after considerable correspondence, this request was denied. In 1960, in an effort to make the bathhouse profitable, one of the owners even suggested installing bowling alleys in the gym, but this was not considered profitable and the suggestion was dropped.



Much original equipment remains in the gymnasium. Other items that were donated to the Hot Springs Boys' Club in 1971 have since been returned to the park for use in the restoration of the bathhouse.

#### References:

- (1) July 20, 1914, John R. Fordyce to Samuel W. Fordyce, JRF:

Then I doubled the size of the gymnasium. The room as Mann had planned it would have been a farce as far as a gymnasium was concerned. Now we will have a practical gymnasium where a whole ball team can train at once, and Manier assures me that with this feature alone he will be able to close a contract with some of the Northern baseball teams and we will make the bathhouse their training quarters and get all of the advertising which such a contract will call for.

- (2) December 19, 1914, John R. Fordyce to Samuel W. Fordyce, JRF:

The gymnasium equipment is all on the way and the gymnasium is ready to receive it except the hardwood floors. This is on the ground and ready to put in just as soon as I can get rid of the plasterers on the third floor. During this cold weather it was necessary to mix the plastering in this room. They expect to finish by Wednesday of next week.

- (3) January 18, 1915, John R. Fordyce to Samuel W. Fordyce, JRF: "I have also received Bill of Lading for the gymnasium goods and hope to get that in the next day or two."

- (4) February 10, 1915, Eugene J. Stern to William P. Parks, HOSP Central Files: Changes made during construction included "Gymnasium increased in width."

- (5) June 30, 1918, "Transcript of Original Investment Cost of the Fordyce Bathhouse as Shown on Ledgers, Pages 146-147," HOSP, includes "Gymnasium \$832.87."

- (6) February 27, 1915, Hot Springs New Era, p. 3 (virtually identical to Sentinel-Record, February 28, 1915, Section 2, p. 1):

The gymnastic department is one of the features of this wonderful bathhouse. The room is 70 by 30 feet, and contains a full equipment of gymnastic apparatus, including traveling rings, flying trapeze giant strides, pulling machine, punching bags, striking dummies, horizontal bars, springboard, turning poles, etc.

(7) February 28, 1915, Arkansas Gazette, p. 7:

The gymnasium is also on this floor. It is fully equipped with all of the most approved apparatus for developing muscle or amusing the athletes. This gymnasium fills a longfelt want in Hot Springs, for there has never been a place where the visiting athletes could exercise on a rainy day.

(8) 1915, Photograph (figure 59), "Gymnasium," "Fordyce Bath House," p. 17. This description of the gym appears on pp. 16-17 of the brochure: "No one visits [the] Fordyce Bathhouse without looking in on the gymnasium on the third floor -- undoubtedly the largest in the State of Arkansas, and one of the best equipped, containing rings, trapeze, strides, springboards, turning poles, pulling machines, punching bags, striking dummies, vaulting horses, etc."

(9) November 6, 1915, John F. Manier to William P. Parks, HOSP Central Files:

Confirming our conversation, I beg to inquire if there is any objection to establishing a Physical Culture Class of bathers of the Fordyce Bathhouse.

Upon numerous occasions I have been beseeched to do this by local business and professional men, stating that there was at the present time no available Gymnasium in the City, and that they were very desirous of joining some such class. I have deferred the matter until now, because I wanted to secure a proper instructor in this line of work. I now believe I have one in the person of Geo. W. Cassell, who has been engaged by the City School Board to handle this class of work in the Public Schools.

The proposition that I desire information upon is this: -- If permission is granted to establish such a class, would there be any objection to charging the sum of 10¢ extra for each lesson taken by the bathers, this to act as the fee for the Instructor. If this is not agreeable will it be permissible for the bath house to pay this fee from the price of the baths.

In organizing this class you will understand that inasmuch as it will be composed mostly by local business and professional men that we will be obliged to give these baths and hold these exercises say about three nights each week.

Would there be any objection to either myself as manager or Mr. Cassell as director to organize this class among the above mentioned people, explaining to them that it is the rule of your department that only bathers at the

Fordyce Bathhouse can join this class, and that if they desire to join they must purchase tickets, as per your suggestion. As far as the Management of the bathhouse is concerned, we are not doing this as a money making proposition, and would be pleased to have these classes open and limited to these people free, but as you suggest that it is a rule that these privileges are only for people who purchase tickets, we ask permission to so inform prospective class members.

(10) November 10, 1915, William P. Parks to John F. Manier, HOSP Central Files: "It is my opinion that under the existing rules and regulations governing the bathhouses it would be impracticable to grant this request."

(11) December 2, 1915, John F. Manier to Samuel W. Fordyce, National Archives, RG-79, 900-05, pt. 1: "Confirming our conversation relative to the matter of the organization of a physical culture class in the gymnasium of the Fordyce Bathhouse...Supt. Parks stated that it would be impractical to grant the request. However, he suggested that the matter be taken up with the assistant to the Secretary, Mr. Mather."

(12) February 1916, "Expense Account," JRF: "Punching bag bladders 2.55" were purchased from Brunswick-Balke Callender (?) Co. and "Boxing gloves 5.00" were purchased from Steigler Bros.

(13) February 16, 1916, "World's Greatest Spot to Train In," Sentinel-Record, Hudgins Scrapbook, Item 3, p. 76, UASC:

"Give me two weeks in which to train, two weeks of the baths and workout in this gymnasium, and you won't know me. Hot Springs is the greatest place in the world in which to train. This place is more than a gym -- it is a palace. Look what I've got here to use in training. Everything a boxer requires is right here, with the famous baths, too. Boys it's great!"

The foregoing statement was made by Johnny Killane in the gymnasium of the Fordyce bathhouse where he enjoyed his first day's workout. To state that the champion thoroughly enjoyed the work would be putting it mildly, for he appeared as lively as a two-year-old colt. He sampled everything in the gymnasium, and the paraphernalia there was a source of wonder to him. The champion had no idea he would find such complete facilities in this city and there was just one surprise after another for him when he entered the big bathing establishment.

(14) January 12, 1920, John F. Manier to Director, National Park Service, c/o William P. Parks, HOSP Central Files:

Whereas a great many people come to Hot Springs National Park for reduction of Blood Pressure and to build up



their Physiques by a graduated system of exercise prescribed by Physicians, and whereas this exercise should be taken under the supervision of a competent Physical Director; -- It is our desire to install such a Physical Director who will direct the exercise of such patrons who desire same, and see that doctors orders are carried out in regards to the use of the Ortel system of exercise, supplemented by Gymnasium work, and such forms of bathing as are necessary.

We therefore respectfully request your permission to install such a Physical Director and inaugurate such charge as you may deem adequate to compensate for such service.

(15) October 5, 1920, John F. Manier to John R. Fordyce, EF: "Two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.02) and two cents, having been applied to Investment by Betterments. This amount was expended for the new slides, whirl-a-gig, and See Saws which were put in the Gymnasium."

(16) November 26, 1920, William P. Parks to Director, National Park Service, HOSP Central Files: "There has always been an objection on the part of the smaller bathhouses who cannot offer such an attraction, as they claim that to conduct a class of physical culture in the larger bathhouses acts as an advertising medium with which they cannot compete."

(17) February 22, 1921, Stephen T. Mather to John R. Fordyce, HOSP Central Files:

I am favorable to your proposed plan of employing a physical director to direct the gymnasium work of the patrons of the Fordyce Bathhouse, and you are authorized to put this into effect. It is assumed, of course, that you will employ a man who is thoroughly qualified in this line, as best results in physical work can only be accomplished where the work is intelligently understood by the leader and the exercises so graduated as to suit the condition of the individual.

The Fordyce management did not hire a physical culture director until after February 1, 1923. (See November 20, 1922, letter from John R. Fordyce to C.H. Waring, HOSP Central Files.)

(18) February 11, 1921, Stephen T. Mather to William P. Parks, HOSP Central Files:

In giving permission to him to employ the physical director I am unable to see the force of the argument put forth by some of the cheaper bathhouses that this action will tend to draw patronage from them in view of its advertising value. To me it would appear just as logical for low-rate hotels to protest against orchestras and



other services in the higher-priced hostelryes. I feel that properly supervised physical exercise can be made an excellent accompaniment to the baths and productive of good results. In view of the action taken in the case of the Fordyce Bathhouse you should notify all other houses that a similar privilege is open to them.

(19) January 11, 1923, C.W. Haverkampf (Maj., Medical Corps, USA) to John R. Fordyce, HOSP Central Files:

In reference to our conversation of recent date with the superintendent of Hot Springs National Park, submit the following recommendation for establishing courses of physical exercise in the gymnasium of the Fordyce Bath:

(1) Authority to thoroughly advertise the "Courses" and the benefits to be derived therefrom.

(2) Establishment of classes according to age and physical condition.

(3) The establishment of regular and special courses of physical exercise.

(4) The regular course of training and exercise to consist of twenty, one-half hour periods each, and special courses of indefinite number but of half-hour periods for special selected cases such as physical deformity, flat foot, [?], etc.

(5) That all residents and visitors of Hot Springs be entitled to take the course, irrespective of whether they bathe at the Fordyce or elsewhere.

(6) That the director of the gymnasium be permitted to supply patrons of the gymnasium with gymnasium clothing at a nominal profit, providing patrons cannot obtain this equipment readily at Hot Springs shops.

(7) That a minimum fee of \$10.00 be charged for a course of twenty one-half hour periods; \$6.00 for a course of ten one-half hour exercise periods, and that for special cases, as mentioned above, at the rate of \$1.00 per half-hour period. The instructions in this group to admit of practically personal and private instruction.

(8) That all physical exercises be under supervision of Major C.W. Haverkampf, or his designated assistants.

(20) November 7, 1923, Fordyce Bathhouse Manager Talbot P. Shelby to C.H. Waring, HOSP Central Files: "The lessons at present will be at 9:30 each morning. The periods will be one half-hour for each lesson.

Pupils will be entitled to shower bath and dressing room privileges." Approved in a November 8, 1923, letter from C.H. Waring to the Manager, Fordyce Bathhouse, HOSP Central Files.

(21) January 16, 1924, Talbot P. Shelby to C.H. Waring, HOSP Central Files:

We have made arrangements and secured Mrs. H.A. Reed to take over the physical culture instructions in our gymnasium.

Mrs. Reed makes a specialty in reduction of weight and I think we have a big field for that at the Fordyce. Mrs. Reed also has been doing this work for a good many years in Hot Springs and has a big following both at the Eastman and the Arlington. She will start at the Fordyce Monday, January 21st, hours from nine to twelve.

The prices are as follows:

18 lessons	for \$25.00
9 lessons	13.50
1 lesson	1.50

Redeemed at the rates sold.

(22) February 9, 1926, H.H. Julian to Joseph P. Bolten, HOSP Central Files: "Permission is respectfully requested to employ Mr. Jack Grace as Physical Director effective immediately upon your approval."

(23) August 25, 1926, H.H. Julian to Joseph P. Bolten, HOSP Central Files:

Mr. Joseph R. Wakelin desires the position of Physical Instructor at the Fordyce Bathhouse.

It was our idea to allow him the gross receipts in exchange for competent care of the equipment and replacements through damage other than ordinary wear and tear. It is also our understanding that no liability rests on the Fordyce Bathhouse in the event of physical ill effects resulting to a patron of this service through the Instructor's methods of instruction and also that such patrons must be a registered bather at the Fordyce Bathhouse. Any exceptions to this rule, we think should of necessity be sanctioned and approved by the Superintendent.

Approved in an August 26, 1926, letter from Joseph Bolten to H.H. Julian, HOSP Central Files.

(24) October 29, 1927, Grace M. Ross to H.H. Julian, HOSP Central Files:

Referring to my conversation with yourself and Dr. Bolten Superintendent in regard to the use of the Fordyce gymnasium for Physical Culture Instruction, I am accordingly submitting herewith a price list which would prevail unless otherwise revised by the Superintendent.

1. One hour of Physical Culture Instruction in group exercises to build up anaemic, under-weight persons or to reduce over-weight persons.....\$2.00

2. Ticket of TEN (10) for above instruction..15.00

3. In case of additional necessary instruction Per Hour..... 2.50

4. Ticket of TEN (10) for above instruction. 20.00

It is understood that registered bathers of the Fordyce Baths have first right to use the Gymnasium and that any of my pupils or classes will follow in a secondary manner except in any period of time set aside for me by the Superintendent.

I will abide by all the Rules and Regulations of the Interior Department and will endeavor at all times to maintain a standard of service and deportment compatible with your requirements.

In the event that the Superintendent approves this arrangement I shall concede and pay to the Fordyce Bathhouse FORTY PERCENT (40%) of all Gross Receipts.

I also accept full responsibility and will relieve the Fordyce Bathhouse and the Hot Springs National Park of all liability, financial moral or otherwise, for any personal injury of any character to any person or persons receiving physical instruction who are not registered at the Fordyce Bathhouse. In case of accident or injury to registered bathers I agree to share the responsibility jointly.

After Mrs. Ross agreed to a reduction in rates (November 7, 1927, H.H. Julian to Joseph P. Bolten, HOSP Central Files), permission was granted in a November 7, 1927, letter from Joseph Bolten to the Manager, Fordyce Bathhouse, HOSP Central Files.

(25) December 29, 1927, Arno B. Cammerer to Superintendent, Hot Springs National Park, National Archives, RG-79, 900-05, pt. 2:

This will acknowledge the receipt of your letter of December 17 in regard to the request of the Business &

Professional Women's Club of Hot Springs for permission to use the gymnasium in the Fordyce Bathhouse for physical culture purposes. We also have your further letter of the same date in regard to the use of the gymnasiums in the bathhouses by outside organizations of the City of Hot Springs.

After carefully considering the points made by you we can see no objection to the various bathhouses permitting outside persons or organizations to use their gymnasium facilities, provided of course that such use will not interfere with the availability of these facilities as may be required by registered bathers. It would seem, as you point out in your letter, that so long as the gymnasium will only be used by the outside public at night that this use would not inconvenience the regular patrons of the bathhouses. In order that the Government may exercise appropriate supervision over the use of the facilities at the various bathhouses by the outside public all requests for the use of these facilities by persons and organizations not registered at the particular bathhouse should be passed upon and approved by you as local representative of the Service. In passing upon applications you will understand, of course, that approval should be given only in the event you are assured that access to the bathhouse facilities by registered bathers will not be unduly interfered with.

(26) January 5, 1929, Frank A. Stearns to Joseph P. Bolten, HOSP Central Files:

Permission is requested to employ Eddie Ketchell as Physical Instructor for the present winter season. He is to assume this capacity upon receipt of your official sanction.

It is the understanding with Mr. Ketchell that, in no wise, are patrons of the house, who are not pupils of his, to be limited in their use of the gymnasium by reason of his activities. It is further understood that use of the gymnasium for pugilistic training bouts is not to begin prior to 2:30 P.M.

An effort is to be made to encourage the use of the staterooms by pugilists and their followers in order to eliminate the possibility of depredations in the second floor dressing booths.

The fee to be charged by Mr. Ketchell for physical instruction is to be \$1.00 per person and lessons to be of one-half hour duration each.



(27) May 18, 1932, Elizabeth M. Gibson to Thomas J. Allen, Jr., HOSP Central Files:

Mr. Economy [physical culture director] wishes to form classes among our bathers as well as outsiders and he will be on duty during the bathing hours each day. He proposes to charge \$10.00 for a course in gymnastics -- 21 lessons -- \$5.00 for 10 lessons -- \$2.50 for 5 lessons and \$.50 for a single lesson. This rate for our bathers and \$10.00 per month for the outsiders. All pupils to have the benefit of a shower after the lessons.

These gymnasium tickets to be sold through the bathhouse to our bathers as well as the outsiders and the Fordyce Bathhouse to retain fifty per cent of the gymnasium revenue.

(28) August 27, 1934, Memorandum from George C. Bolton to Thomas J. Allen (regarding inspection of Fordyce prior to lease renewal), HOSP Central Files:

The Gym which is used by both men and women needs paint, also ropes used in the installation of flying rings and ladders should be checked over and in the main replaced. This is about the best Gym in Hot Springs and I have seen large use of it as one of the features of the Fordyce Baths.

(29) c.1934-1939, Photograph (figure 60), "For Voluntary or Prescribed Exercise," "Fordyce Baths," p. 3.

(30) May 13, 1940, Byron L. Neimeyer to C. Powell Fordyce, (List of expenditures, 1932-1936) UASC: In 1936 gym equipment was purchased from Leach Sporting Goods Company for \$42.35 and from Bush Caldwell Company for \$146.00.

(31) c.1940s, Photograph (figure 61), "Action in the 'Gym,'" "The Fordyce Baths," p. 2.

(32) c.1940s, Photograph of Fordyce gymnasium (figure 62), "Life Begins at the Fordyce," p. 6.

(33) September 2, 1944, Byron L. Neimeyer to Donald S. Libbey, HOSP Central Files:

We ask your permission to extend the use of our gymnasium to the returnees who will be [in] Hot Springs as part of the Army's distribution program.

The returnees will use a room set aside for them [and] the gymnasium and be given a shower and the use of a towel.

We ask your permission to make a special charge to them of fifty cents each for the above services.

(34) September 7, 1944, Memorandum from Donald S. Libbey for the Regional Director, Region 3, National Park Service, HOSP Central Files:

There is attached, in duplicate, a request from Mr. Byron L. Neimeyer, Manager of the Fordyce Bathhouse, this park, that military personnel being processed in the redistribution program at Hot Springs be granted permission to use the gymnasium of the Fordyce Bathhouse and a special rate of 50¢ each be charged for such service, this to include showers, towels, and use of staterooms.

It is my understanding gained from conferences with Assistant Superintendent Bolton and Mr. J.F. Manier, President of the Hot Springs Bathhouse Association, that the request of Mr. Neimeyer should not be granted for the following reasons:

1. In a meeting on August 28, the problem was discussed with the members of the Bathhouse Association and only the managers of bathhouses on the government area voted. Three of them voted in favor of Mr. Neimeyer's request and three of them voted in the negative. Mr. Manier, as President of the Association, cast the deciding vote and I feel confident that he is not completely in accord with the request, since he has indicated that he does not desire to extend similar privileges in the Lamar Bathhouse to the returnees. Two others voting in the negative have gymnasiums in their bathhouses and express a desire to have these facilities not made available for such purposes. It does not seem advisable to permit the gymnasium facilities of one bathhouse to be made available for returnees and not have comparable facilities in other bathhouses available for them.
2. The request for a special charge of 50¢ for the services, as set forth in Mr. Neimeyer's letter, would disturb the present rate structures and would establish a precedent which would lead to further complications. In the past, no charge has prevailed for use of gymnasium facilities to regular patrons.
3. It appears that several of the large hotels taken over by the Army here have roof gardens in which satisfactory gymnasium facilities could be made available and such use appears to be in no way connected with the use of the Hot Springs National Park natural mineral waters. This is an acute situation, since the limited Hot Springs water should not be dissipated for gymnasium shower use.

4. The heavy visitor use of the bathhouses at Hot Springs National Park which prevails at the present time is so great that it does not appear to be desirable to further tax such facilities with the military returnees use. Also, such use of the gymnasium in the bathhouse might become the entering wedge which would subsequently disturb the concessioner operations in this park.

As indicated in section 1 above, it would not be advisable to extend such a service in one bathhouse, together with a special rate for the service, unless a comparable permission was granted to other bathhouses and representatives of the other bathhouses having gymnasium facilities appear to be positive in their opposition to such use of their gymnasium facilities.

(35) September 26, 1944, Donald S. Libbey to Byron L. Neimeyer, HOSP Central Files:

Reference is made to your request of September 2, 1944, for permission to grant the use of the gymnasium in the Fordyce Bathhouse to returnees of the Army Redistribution Center at Hot Springs, with a fee of 50¢ each to be charged.

In a memorandum of September 16, the Acting Director of this Service makes the following statement:

"A definite showing has not been made that the use requested is necessary in connection with the reconditioning of Army personnel, or that such a service is not available elsewhere in the City of Hot Springs."

In the circumstances, it is not possible to approve your request for returnee use of the Fordyce Bathhouse gymnasium, as set forth in your memorandum of September 2.

(36) August 8, 1948, Thomas Boles, to Byron Neimeyer, UASC: "It is observed in the N.E. corner of the Gym, plastering has cracked and the paint peeled. This is caused by a plugged downspout located on outside of the building."

(37) 1949, Ledger sheet, UASC, includes an entry for \$191.00 spent on sanding and painting the gymnasium floor in April. On the back of the ledger sheet is the explanation, "sanding & varnishing gymnasium floor."

(38) 1950s-1960s, Interview with John R. Fordyce, III, conducted by Carol Petravage on August 24, 1986: Mr. Fordyce recalled that when he used the gym at the Fordyce (in the 1950s and 1960s), the equipment included traveling rings, boxing or sparring area, arm pulley weights attached to walls, Indian clubs, medicine ball, long sticks, boxing gloves, and punching bag.



(39) July 5, 1956, Donald S. Libbey to Byron L. Neimeyer (Report of Annual Inspection of Fire and Safety Hazards), UASC: "Worn pull ropes in gym should be replaced."

(40) February 3, 1960, C. Powell Fordyce to Byron L. Neimeyer, UASC:

I wonder if there is any possibility that we could get the Interior Department to allow us to install bowling alleys in our gymnasium, and then let visitors use these alleys during the daytime, and at night, even though the people using the bowling alleys are not taking any baths at the Bathhouse. If there already are good bowling alleys near the Bathhouse, of course we probably could not compete successfully with them. However, if there are no good bowling alleys near the Bathhouse, possibly we could make a good deal of money from the bowling alleys in the gymnasium, if we could get permission from the Interior Department to let us install them. Bowling is becoming very popular in St. Louis and many other places around the country. I suspect that many of the visitors to Hot Springs would be interested in bowling. Then if we could get people into the Bathhouse by having them use the bowling alleys, perhaps we could sell them bath tickets. In making this suggestion I am assuming that very few people now use the gymnasium. I would appreciate your giving me your views regarding this possibility.

(41) February 12, 1960, Byron L. Neimeyer to C. Powell Fordyce, UASC:

Also discussed with Mr. Gregg the bowling possibilities. He said we would have to limit it to the use of our bath customers and have it open during daytime only and that he did not think it would pay off in increased patronage.

Enclosed are some clippings on new bowling facilities opening here today, sounds like an elaborate layout, ample parking, meals, etc., and an expenditure of \$400,000.00. I really don't think a downtown bowling facility could compete and pay off. Also, I could not recommend a very large expenditure on Dept. of Interior land and lease. Under their rules and regulations, even though we had some amendments the rules of operation would be too confining.

(42) March 15, 1971, Deed of Gift from the "Fordyce Bathhouse, a Partnership" (signed by C. Powell Fordyce) to the Hot Springs Boys' Club, HOSP:

As a gift to HOT SPRINGS BOYS' CLUB, INC., 401 Carson Street, Hot Springs, Arkansas, we hereby assign all of



our right, title, and interest in and to the items of personal property listed below, which are presently located in the Fordyce Bathhouse:

<u>Number</u>	<u>Description of Property</u>	<u>Fair Market Value</u>
6	Metal Chairs	\$60.00
4	Metal Rubbing Tables	40.00
2	Metal Coat Racks	12.00
3	Speed Bag Frames	60.00
	Dumb-Bells	200.00
1	Bicycle	175.00
	Parallel Bars	1,000.00
	Chinning Bar & Attachments	200.00
10	Full length Metal Lockers	50.00
50	Metal lockers	100.00
	Total	\$1,897.00

(43) March 29, 1971, C. Powell Fordyce to Byron L. Neimeyer, HOSP:

As I am sure you are aware, I received a letter from Mr. Kissire, the Executive Director of the Boys' Club, dated March 23, giving me a longer list of gymnasium equipment which the Boys' Club would like to have. I have checked this matter with the other members of the family and we are glad to give the Boys' Club the equipment which they want. This has a value now of \$2,695.00, according to Mr. Kissire's changed list. An Assignment covering this property is enclosed herewith, and I am writing to authorize you to deliver this property to Mr. Kissire anytime that he wants to get it. Please give him the Assignment.

Library/Mercury Rubbing Room/Hubbard Tub Room (306). Originally intended to be the mercury rubbing room, room 306 was probably changed to a library during construction. The mercury room moved to room 205, where it operated until the new chiropody department was added in August 1915. At that point, room 205 became the chiropody room, the mercury department moved into room 306 (its original planned location), and the library was probably eliminated. Another mercury room for female patrons may have been located in room 312. The mercury department remained profitable for many years, despite occasional disagreements with the Park Service over the rates, which the Fordyce management believed were placed at an unrealistically low level. Room 306 remained the mercury rubbing room until 1939, when the Hubbard Tub was installed. By the

mid-1930s, medical textbooks indicate that a course of intramuscular injections of mercury preparations and other compounds had become the most common treatment for syphilis.

During the 1930s, John Fordyce attempted to develop Hot Springs and the Fordyce Bathhouse in particular as a hydrotherapeutic center for arthritis, paralysis, polio, and other afflictions. Fordyce's efforts are summarized in the "Analysis of Historic Occupancy." Presented here is evidence related specifically to the installation and use of the Hubbard Tub.

Approval to install one Hubbard Tub was obtained in 1936, but the tub was not installed until 1939. Additional approval to use a whirlpool as part of the deep bath treatment was granted in 1941. The Fordyce management had difficulty finding and keeping qualified physiotherapists, especially during World War II. At one point, the Fordyce management even arranged to share the physiotherapist employed by the Maurice. By August 1942, the management was forced to suspend operation of the deep bath because of this staffing problem. Later efforts to reopen the deep bath on a regular basis were unsuccessful, although patrons may have been able to use the Hubbard Tub by special request after 1947.

#### References:

- (1) February 10, 1915, Eugene J. Stern to William P. Parks, HOSP Central Files: Changes made on the second floor during construction included "Men's massage room changed to Men's Mercury room." On the third floor the "Men's Mercury Room changed to [the] Library."
- (2) February 27, 1915, Hot Springs New Era, p. 3: "...and a complete library, where popular books, magazines and newspapers are furnished for the accommodation of guests."
- (3) June 30, 1918, "Transcript of Original Investment Cost of the Fordyce Bathhouse as Shown on Ledgers, Pages 146-147," HOSP, includes the entry "Mercury Dept. \$41.54."
- (4) July 2, 1919, John F. Manier to Samuel W. Fordyce, EF: "You will also note that our Mercury Department Earnings are still very low. This owing to the rate for these treatments being made so low that it causes houses like the FORDYCE, BUCKSTAFF and MAURICE a great injustice."

(5) September 15, 1919, John F. Manier to John R. Fordyce, EF: "I am unable to do anything with the Mercury department until we can get some relief from the Interior Department relative to the rate, which is so low that it is not worth bothering with at present."

(6) April 3, 1920, John F. Manier to John R. Fordyce, EF:

On April the first all the Bathhouse Managers were summoned to the office of Supt. Parks, and he informed us that he proposed recommending the raise of Mercury Rubbing Rates. Several different schedules were submitted for the consideration of the bathhouse men, and all were agreed that the highest rate submitted, was none too high; and voted they would be pleased to receive same. The new rate which Doctor Parks will recommend is the same as the old rate was, prior to the reduction we sustained about a year ago.

(7) March 5, 1921, John F. Manier to John R. Fordyce, EF:

Your particular attention is called to the substantial increase in the Massage and Mercury Departments. This was made possible by securing additional new apparatus for an extension in these departments, and then by personal effort to increase the business in these lines.

You will note an item of Betterments amounting to three hundred eighteen dollars and ninety three cents (\$318.93). This was used in procuring new electrical apparatus and furniture for the Massage and Mercury Departments. Your attention is called to the fact that we earned net from our departments last month, separate of that earned by the baths, the amount of one thousand five hundred thirty nine dollars and twenty seven cents (\$1,539.27).

(8) February 12, 1924, C.H. Waring to Talbot P. Shelby, HOSP Central Files:

It is noted from the report submitted last December of rates for certain services at your bathhouse that the following rates are charged for mercury rubs:

1 Rub	- \$ .50
10 Rubs	- 4.50
21 Rubs	- 9.00

The proportionate rate on a 10-rub ticket is in excess of the maximum rates stated in the rules and regulations, which are as follows:

1 rub - \$ .50  
7 rubs - 3.00  
14 rubs - 6.00  
21 rubs - 9.00

It is requested that your rates for this service be changed accordingly.

(9) August 27, 1934, Memorandum from George C. Bolton to Thomas J. Allen (regarding inspection of Fordyce Bathhouse prior to lease renewal), HOSP Central Files: "The small rooms used by the Chiropodist and the Mercury Rubber are all right for such uses. Equipment such as new chairs would help."

(10) November 16, 1936, John R. Fordyce to Donald S. Libbey, National Archives, RG-79:

This is a formal application for permission to install one of the Currence-Hubbard tubs similar to the illustration enclosed.

It is our wish to install one of these tubs so that underwater treatments can be given in our Bathhouse and to locate this tub somewhere that it will be available to both men and women.

We would like for the Park Service to designate that definite location and be left to you and the Bathhouse Manager.

We would like to install this tub just as quickly as we can get it manufactured and shipped so that it will be ready for the business of the new year.

If permission is given to install this tub, we intend to employ an expert hydrotherapy operator whom you will pass on and recommend.

(11) November 16, 1936, John R. Fordyce to Ille Electrical Company, HOSP:

In regard to your letter of recent date in respect to the installation of a Currence-Hubbard tub. This is to request that you advise us how soon you could construct one of these tubs and ship it. Also please advise us the price and best terms.

Do you furnish the overhead tract, trolley and hoist? Also the central valves and temperature regulation?



If we conclude a purchase from you, we would like to have blueprints showing the setting, piping, and the dimensions of the base so that we could have it ready to install.

Please give us your immediate answer.

The Interior Department needs a new set of blueprints similar to those you gave to Homer Swift of the Medical Research Department of the Rockfellow Institution.

We will appreciate it very much if you would give us the name, address of an efficient operator which has had, at least one year of actual experience, as that is the requirement of the Superintendent of the Interior Department. Also we would like to know the salary that such an operator would expect. We prefer a woman for this position.

(12) November 21, 1936, Donald S. Libbey to the Director, National Park Service, National Archives, RG-79:

There is enclosed copy of a letter, dated November 16, 1936, from Mr. John R. Fordyce, President, Fordyce Baths, Incorporated, in which he requests permission to install in the Fordyce Bathhouse one Hubbard-Currence Underwater Therapy Tank. There is also enclosed specifications and illustrations for the proposed installation.

Examination has disclosed that there exists in the bathhouse suitable space for the installation of the desired tank. It further appears that the installation of such an underwater therapy tank -- an adaptation of the Hubbard Tub -- is in accord with progressive trends and would probably yield satisfactory returns to the bathhouse. It appears that it would be advisable to charge the same for the operation of this underwater therapy tank as prevails for the standard tubs. The volume of water required would be considerably greater for each individual bath but it is doubtful if the frequency of use would be comparable with that which prevails, on the average, for the regular Hot Springs bathtub. It is suggested that we should require meters to be installed on the supplying water lines for the tubs, and at the conclusion of one year's time, re-consideration be given the appropriate charge for the water used in the tub. A decision on this point will raise the question whether the Service should not rule that the therapeutic pool now operating in the Maurice Bathhouse has passed beyond the experimental stage and a charge should be made for the water supplied that pool.

Although Colonel Fordyce did not definitely state, it appears that he wishes to install the underwater therapy tank -- Hubbard-Currence Tub -- as a trial balloon, so to speak, since it is apparent that he will not be able to install the therapeutic pool and battery of four Hubbard-Currence tubs, as covered in my original letter of October 14, prior to the approaching rush season.

Since we are assured that they will employ a competent physiotherapist to operate the tub, and such an installation is in accord with progressive development concerning underwater therapy, it is recommended that such an installation be approved.

Please note that they are very anxious to proceed at once, so as to have the installation ready for utilization prior to the approaching season at this park.

(13) November 23, 1936, F. Wilson Ille for the Ille Electric Corporation to John R. Fordyce, HOSP:

We are in receipt of your letter of the 16th inst. with reference to installation of Hubbard-Currence Underwater Therapy Tank.

The price of the tank complete with 2 Electric Turbine Agitators, Special Thermostatic Mixing Valve, (45 to 55 gallons capacity per minute), Dial Thermometer, Headrest, Overhead Carrier and Stretcher and All fittings for tank and Thermostatic Missing Valve is \$1650.00.

The tank complete with above accessories but without Overhead Carrier and Stretcher is \$1550.00. We can furnish a metal base for supporting tank constructed of heavy galvanized angle iron with nine 2 inch pipe legs, chromium plated, with floor flanges for fastening to floor for \$200.00.

In regard to technician to operate tank, we have taken this matter up with Dr. John D. Currence and have been informed that he can furnish an operator especially trained by him for this work. This woman will be available by the time the tank is installed in your institution which would be approximately from six to seven weeks after receipt of order. She will require a salary of \$150.00 per month. If this meets with your approval please advise us and we will make the necessary arrangements.

(14) December 8, 1936, Memorandum from Arno B. Cammerer to the Assistant Secretary, Department of the Interior, HOSP Central Files:

The following rates are proposed for treatments in this Hubbard-Currence tub:

Single treatment, with services of physiotherapist.....	2.25
Course of ten treatments, with services of physiotherapist.....	21.00
Course of twenty treatments, with services of physiotherapist.....	35.00

These rates are the same as the present authorized rates for treatments in the therapeutic pool in the Maurice Bathhouse and have been recommended by the Superintendent for approval. I am of the opinion that they are reasonable and recommend their approval by you.

Approved on December 15, 1936, by Oscar L. Chapman, Assistant Secretary.

(15) December 14, 1936, John R. Fordyce to George C. Bolton, HOSP Central Files:

The drawings of the Bathhouse Structure will be furnished as soon as I can get them made but I would like to suggest, in reference to your last paragraph, that the floor structure of the Bathhouse is more than strong enough to carry the load of a Hubbard-Currence tub. Water depth in this tub is 18" and the tub itself is sheet metal and therefore much lighter than one of the ordinary tubs made of porcelain. This will bring the load to about 100 pounds per square foot and the floors have a thickness and are reinforced for 600 pounds, so you can see that there is no danger.

(16) August 31, 1938, John R. Fordyce to Byron L. Neimeyer, UASC:

I have designed a hydro tub based on the lines and experiences of many hospitals and bathhouses.

I have placed an order for one of these to the Hamilton Manufacturing Co. of Two Rivers. Please confirm this order and send them a check for \$314.00. This is certainly cheaper than the \$1500 that the New York outfit wanted to charge us. They wanted the check before they invested in the special materials and started work.

They say they can make quite a reduction if we would take 25. We might sell that many and charge \$500.00 each. This of course does not include the mixing chamber or other plumbing.



(17) December 20, 1938, Memorandum from Arno B. Cammerer to Superintendent, HOSP, HOSP Central Files:

Colonel John R. Fordyce, the President of the Fordyce Bathhouse Company, discussed with me yesterday several matters concerning their operations. He is desirous of proceeding with the installation of one Hubbard-Currence Underwater therapy tub as previously approved by this office. The original approval for this installation was given December 1, 1936, and the rates to be charged for service were approved by the Department on December 15, 1936.

These approvals are still in effect. The Fordyce Bathhouse may be permitted to install the tub at any time. We understand it is the present intention to remove unused electrical apparatus from a room adjacent to the massage department and to install the Hubbard tub there. Unless you have some definite reason for objecting to that location, this office knows of none and approves it.

(18) December 29, 1938, Memorandum from George C. Bolton to the Director, National Park Service, National Archives, RG-79:

The site chosen for the installation of the one Hubbard-Currence underwater therapy tub by the Fordyce management is perhaps satisfactory, and whereas the utilization of the space adjoining the massage room, by excluding certain unused electrical apparatus, would give sufficient space for the tub, I still believe there would be a problem arising for consideration which entails facilities for the proper handling of those using the Hubbard tub. It would be necessary to have suitable treatment rooms as an adjunct to this installation, as it is thought unsafe to move patrons of the Hubbard-Currence tub after their treatments to the existing pack and cooling rooms which would be some distance away from the Hubbard tub installation. However, this may be a detail which can be solved here on the ground.

(19) January 3, 1939, Memorandum from Preston P. Patraw to John R. Fordyce, National Archives, RG-79:

In accordance with the Director's authorization contained in his letters of December 1, 1936 and December 20, 1938, you are hereby authorized to proceed with the installation of one Hubbard-Currence tub in the room formerly used as a mercury room, as outlined in our inspection of this morning.

This authorization is given with the understanding that necessary adequate facilities for the care of patients after removal from the tub will be provided.



(20) January 31, 1939, John R. Fordyce to Byron L. Neimeyer, UASC:

I forwarded the tile drawing to you yesterday, also a list of the tile which the Mosaic Co. will furnish. The prevailing color is light green so you should paint the walls light green also.

Please note that the overall thickness of the walls of the tub is 3 or 3½ inches and that the top rim is flat. I think you had better get the steel over the tub in place first and then finish up that in the halls.

Get the metal in the tub in place with the scratch coat also the floor.

Get the Engineer to saw off the four handrail supports. We will get some other way to support the rails.

Advise me when the steel supports are in place.

Check the enclosed blueprints and send it to Memphis Power Equip. Co.

The Tile Co. wants the firm name of the tile setter so that they can bill him please write to them at once. Mosaic Tile Co.

(21) February 2, 1939, John R. Fordyce to Byron L. Neimeyer, UASC:

I think you should go ahead and put the overhead steel beams in place and bolt them up. When the trolley track comes you can shift it slightly as there are no holes to bore.

If the pipe supports are not in the way of the tile setter do not cut them off. It may be that later we will have to cut off the pipes in order to get them in place.

I am sorry to hear that you must put in the higher rates but it can't be helped. Rush the floor scratch coat.

I advised Bronson to have the electric hoist manufacturers to make a draft on you through the Arkansas National Bank. He advised that the carrier was ready to ship.

(22) February 8, 1939, John R. Fordyce to Byron L. Neimeyer, UASC:  
"Please note the letter from Winfield Polk and see that the amounts paid for tile is not given out. If the tile was shipped last Saturday it ought to here by now. Try and get the track hurried up."

(23) February 14, 1939, John R. Fordyce to Byron Neimeyer, UASC:

I worked up the top rim as per the sketch enclosed please have the tile setter make the rim according to this as I have sent this to the manufacturers who are making the brackets which are to fit this rim. Please note that the top is 4 3/8" and the straight face on the outside is 2 3/4". I'll be over Thursday. Wire for the track unless you have heard when it has been shipped.

(24) February 20, 1939, John R. Fordyce to Byron L. Neimeyer, UASC:

I am glad the California goods have arrived. When the plynth comes from the same place this will complete the order. Please advise me. We will then be ready to photograph. Arrange for two ladies in bathing suits, one for operator and one for patient, and get Stonecipher[?] to come over with flood lights and curtains to darken the windows. I should like to be there with my camera also. Let me know when you will be ready. You might wire the applicant when you get an operator who is satisfactory.

See Lecroy about the hose to fill the pool.

Has the tile setter put down the floor yet?

(25) February 25, 1939, Memorandum from Preston P. Patraw to the Director, National Park Service, National Archives, RG-79:

Using a comparison between the capacity or anticipated revenue of the Hubbard-Currence Tub and of the average bathtub, I find that the water rental rate for the Hubbard-Currence Tub should be \$140 per annum. I recommend your approval to this rate. I have consulted the manager of the Fordyce Bathhouse, who states that in his opinion, this proposed rate is reasonable.

Rate approved April 7, 1939, by Assistant Secretary Oscar L. Chapman.

(26) April 11, 1939, Preston P. Patraw to the Director, National Park Service, National Archives, RG-79: In the Monthly Narrative Report, Patraw states that "the installation of a Hubbard-Currence Tub in the Fordyce Bathhouse was completed and the first bath in it was given on March 9," 1939.

(27) 1939, Photographs (3) of Hubbard Tub (figures 63-65), stamped on the reverse "DeLuxe Studio/Mar 1 1939/Hot Springs, Ark.," HOSP.

(28) c.1940s, Photograph (figure 66), "The Fordyce Hubbard Tub," "The Fordyce Baths," p. 2.

(29) c.1940s, Photograph of Hubbard Tub (figure 67), "We're On Our Way to... Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas."

(30) c.1940s, Photograph of Hubbard Tub (figure 68), "Life Begins Again at the Fordyce," p. 1.

(31) c.1940s, Photograph of Hubbard Tub (figure 69), "Life Begins Again at the Fordyce," p. 5. The same photograph appears in the advertising flyer "The Deep Bath and Therapeutic Pool of the Fordyce Baths."

(32) September 1946, Photograph of Hubbard Tub (figure 70), National Geographic, Vol. XC, No. 3, p. xvi.

(33) January 1951, Photograph (figure 71), "Rheumatic patients get hydrotherapy massage in Hubbard tubs," "Hot Springs" in Holiday magazine, p. 41.

(34) April 11, 1939, John R. Fordyce to Byron Neimeyer, UASC: "I noticed that the Hydro tub still has a scum discoloration on the walls. Can't you have the negro scrub this with Bon Ami or some such material. I am sure that our claim for cleanliness will be weakened unless we scrub every day."

(35) April 1, 1939, L. Baron for Ille Electric Corporation to Fordyce Bathhouse, HOSP:

We are in receipt of yours of March 24th with reference to the two electric turbine ejectors to be attached to your Underwater Therapy Tank.

We have discontinued the manufacture of the type of turbine ejector which you have on your Titus Portable Whirlpool Bath and have replaced it with one which is vastly more efficient and more substantial. We are enclosing cut showing the type of turbine ejector which we now manufacture. This unit consists of a special 1/3 H.P. 3,500 R.M.M. ball-bearing vertically mounted motor. The motor is direct[ly] connected to a stainless steel drive shaft which runs in a non-metallic water lubricated bearing. Our present turbine ejector ejects 35 gallons of water per minute at a velocity of 2,200 linear feet per minute. The aerator is an integral part of the turbine ejector and mixes approximately 15,840 cubic inches of air per minute with the water. The aerator is equipped with a muffler which reduces the sound of air passing through the aerator and the entire unit operates very quietly. The turbine ejector is built for operation on 110 volts, 60 cycles, alternating current.

We shall be pleased to supply you with two turbine ejector units and gear boxes to permit easy raising and lowering the rotating to angles in the tank, for the sum



of \$195.00 each f.o.b. Hot Springs. These would be equipped with mounting devices similar to that shown in the enclosed sketch. All parts of this equipment are finished in polished chrome, except the motor which is finished in silver aluminum lacquer.

(36) December 2, 1941, Byron L. Neimeyer to Preston P. Patraw, HOSP Central Files:

We wish to terminate any former approval given by your office in regard to Whirlpool bath.

We want to make the Whirlpool bath a part of the Deep Bath treatment, and make no extra charge for it's use when patient buys a deep bath ticket.

Approved in a December 13, 1941, letter from George C. Bolton to the Manager, Fordyce Bathhouse (HOSP Central Files).

(37) November 24, 1941, M.F. Relyea and Byron L. Neimeyer to Preston P. Patraw, HOSP Central Files:

We would like to submit for your consideration and subject to your approval, an agreement between the Maurice and Fordyce Bathhouses whereby Mr. Robert C. Moehn, Physiotherapist of the Maurice Bathhouse will supervise and direct as per the physicians' directions all physiotherapy treatments to be given in the Hubbard Tub at the Fordyce Bathhouse.

This agreement to be tried out for sixty days and if proven satisfactory to both parties, to be okayed by your office.

The Maurice Bathhouse would like to have it understood that the first call on Mr. Moehn's services and his first interests must be the Maurice Bathhouse.

At any time that this agreement proves unsatisfactory to either parties, it can be terminated by proper notice by either party.

A November 24, 1941, letter from Byron L. Neimeyer to Department of Interior, Hot Springs (HOSP Central Files) asks permission to "employ Mrs. R.C. Moehn as physiotherapist helper of the Deep Bath."

These appointments were approved in a November 26, 1941, letter from Preston P. Patraw to Byron L. Neimeyer (HOSP Central Files).

(38) July 23, 1942, Byron L. Neimeyer to Preston P. Patraw, National Archives, RG-79:

We would like your permission to suspend operation August 1, 1942, of the Deep Bath, in this bathhouse until fur-



ther notice. We have had great difficulty in keeping qualified operators as they are most all participating in the war effort.

We would also like relief from the water rent on this service and ask that this be effective October 1, 1942.

(39) July 30, 1942, Memorandum from the Superintendent, HOSP, to the Director, National Park Service, HOSP Central Files:

Considerable difficulty has been encountered in securing the services of a satisfactory physiotherapist for the operation of the Deep Bath. For the past eight months, it has been under the supervision of the physiotherapist in charge of the pool at the Maurice Bathhouse. This physiotherapist is now leaving for the army. The demand for the service has declined and during the past eight months daily treatments have not exceeded three in any one day and have averaged only slightly more than one a day. In view of this situation and the further fact that the pool at the Maurice Bathhouse will be adequate to meet all demands for physiotherapy service here, discontinuance of the operation of the special bath at the Fordyce has been authorized, effective October 1.

It is recommended that the water rent charge for the bath be suspended effective October 1 for the period that the operation of the bath remains in suspension.

(40) July 30, 1942, Memorandum from Superintendent, HOSP, to the Manager, Fordyce Bathhouse, National Archives, RG-79: "Discontinuance of operation of the Deep Bath on October 1, 1942, is authorized with the understanding that advertisement or publicity of the availability of this service will be immediately discontinued." Closure of the deep bath was approved in a September 1, 1942, letter from the Director, National Park Service, Newton B. Drury to Byron Neimeyer (National Archives, RG-79).

(41) October 20, 1942, Byron L. Neimeyer to Downs Fordyce, UASC:

Our pool has been closed since Oct. 1st and Dr. Speed [?] whether he knew it or not had no choice in sending Virginia to the Maurice pool -- Our last two operators were drafted and we found it impossible to obtain anyone who would meet the Department of Interior requirements and ours, at a wage which would not cause us to lose considerably on the operation. The Government hospitals have been paying qualified operators a much higher rate than we can afford to pay -- The number of patients which we can handle per day is limited in the pool as we can take them only one at a time. If we are able to find someone satisfactory, our plans are to reopen the deep bath.

(42) December 1, 1946, Byron L. Neimeyer to Thomas Boles, National Archives, RG-79:

We wish to ask your permission to reopen our therapeutic pool. Also would like to have a change in our formerly approved rate for pool treatments.

The procedure followed in the giving of therapeutic treatments in our Deep Bath, allow a maximum of 6 treatments per day, and at the former rate we could not break even. In order to get a competent qualified operator we will have to pay a higher wage than in the past.

We wish to apply for a rate of \$4.00 per therapeutic bath, and would like to start operation Jan. 1, 1947.

Approval to reopen the deep bath and charge \$4.00 per treatment was granted in a February 27, 1947, letter from the National Park Service Acting Director Hillory A. Tolson to Byron L. Neimeyer (National Archives, RG-79).

(43) December 18, 1946, Memorandum from Thomas Boles to the Regional Director, Region 3, HOSP Central Files: The issue of whether to allow the Fordyce Bathhouse an increase in its deep bath rates resulted in this informative comparison of the physiotherapy treatments at the Maurice and Fordyce Bathhouses.

The Maurice routine is one in which one Physiotherapist, in charge, and with several helpers gives the treatments desired by the attending physician to a number of patients at the same time. The Maurice pool is quite large and is emptied and cleaned after each 30-treatments.

The combination Hubbard-Currence tub which is installed at the Fordyce calls for individual treatments by the physiotherapist and does not allow of supervised treatments by helpers under the responsibility of the Physiotherapist. The large tub is emptied after each treatment and properly cleaned. While the Fordyce tub calls for individual treatments it is quite large and requires about 1/10- of the amount required for the Maurice pool which is emptied after each 30-treatments. The costs of the Physiotherapists salary are as great as [those] at the Maurice but it is not possible for him to clear as many patients each day as he alone gives the treatments. It is for this reason and for the necessity of additional water usage that the Fordyce is justified in asking for an increase in their rates. The bather will be benefitted to the extent that he or she will be getting treatments individually from the Physiotherapist, -- also, the Fordyce has a traveling swing and plinth which allows them to serve un-ambulatory patients who cannot be

taken care of at the Maurice pool. This added responsibility for such patients is also considered in the appeal for increase in their prices.

(44) June 19, 1947, Byron L. Neimeyer to Thomas Boles, National Archives, RG-79:

We have been unable to find an operator for our therapeutic pool and are returning to you, unsigned, authority granted to us by your office as of Feb. 27, [1947].

If the time comes when we can employ a satisfactory operator, we will again ask for your approval.

Authorization to reopen the deep bath was withdrawn in a March 25, 1948, letter from the National Park Service Director Newton B. Drury to Byron L. Neimeyer (National Archives, RG-79).

(45) 1950, Audit Report compiled by Russell Brown & Co., UASC: Under the heading "Funds Derived From" is listed the "Sale of Whirlpool Bath 200.00," indicating that by 1950 the Fordyce management had given up hope of reopening the Hubbard Tub.

### Third Floor Hall.

#### Reference:

(1) June 18, 1932, Thomas J. Allen, Jr., to Elizabeth Gibson, UASC. "You are requested to install at least two fire extinguishers in the hall leading to your staterooms."

### Roof Garden

Originally, patrons gathered in the roof garden to converse and to listen to music performed in the bandstand on the hill behind the bathhouse. The Fordyce management tried unsuccessfully in 1916 to obtain permission for the band to perform in the roof garden. (See the "Analysis of Historic Occupancy" for details.) The roof garden rapidly declined in popularity and by 1934 was only used infrequently for sunbathing.

## References:

- (1) February 27, 1915, Hot Springs New Era, p. 3:

Surmounting, and as it were, crowning with glory, all other features, is the roof garden, containing a floor area of approximately 6000 square feet, and here will be found steamer and reclining chairs, where the visitor can recline and enjoy the bonny breezes on the hot summer evenings, or the radiant glow of sunshine during our mild winter days.

- (2) February 28, 1915, Sentinel-Record, Section 2, p. 1, adds: "Large rails have been placed around the roof to insure absolute safety, and these are supplied with large globes, containing electric lights, giving all the appearance of a beautiful white way."

- (3) February 28, 1915, Arkansas Gazette, p. 7: "Another attraction for spring and summer bathing will be the roof garden, with its splendid view of the city and surrounding mountains."

- (4) 1915, Photograph (figure 72), "Roof Garden," "Fordyce Bath House," p. 9.

- (5) August 27, 1934, Memorandum from George C. Bolton to Thomas J. Allen (regarding inspection of Fordyce prior to lease renewal), HOSP Central Files:

ROOF:--

However, it seems there is a slight demand for solar treatments. With the removal of the old cooling tank and baffling system, there is a good chance here to really have a "Roof Garden" as a sign in one of the hallways denotes what is now just a roof.



## THE PLAN

### INTERPRETIVE OBJECTIVES AND PERIOD OF INTERPRETATION

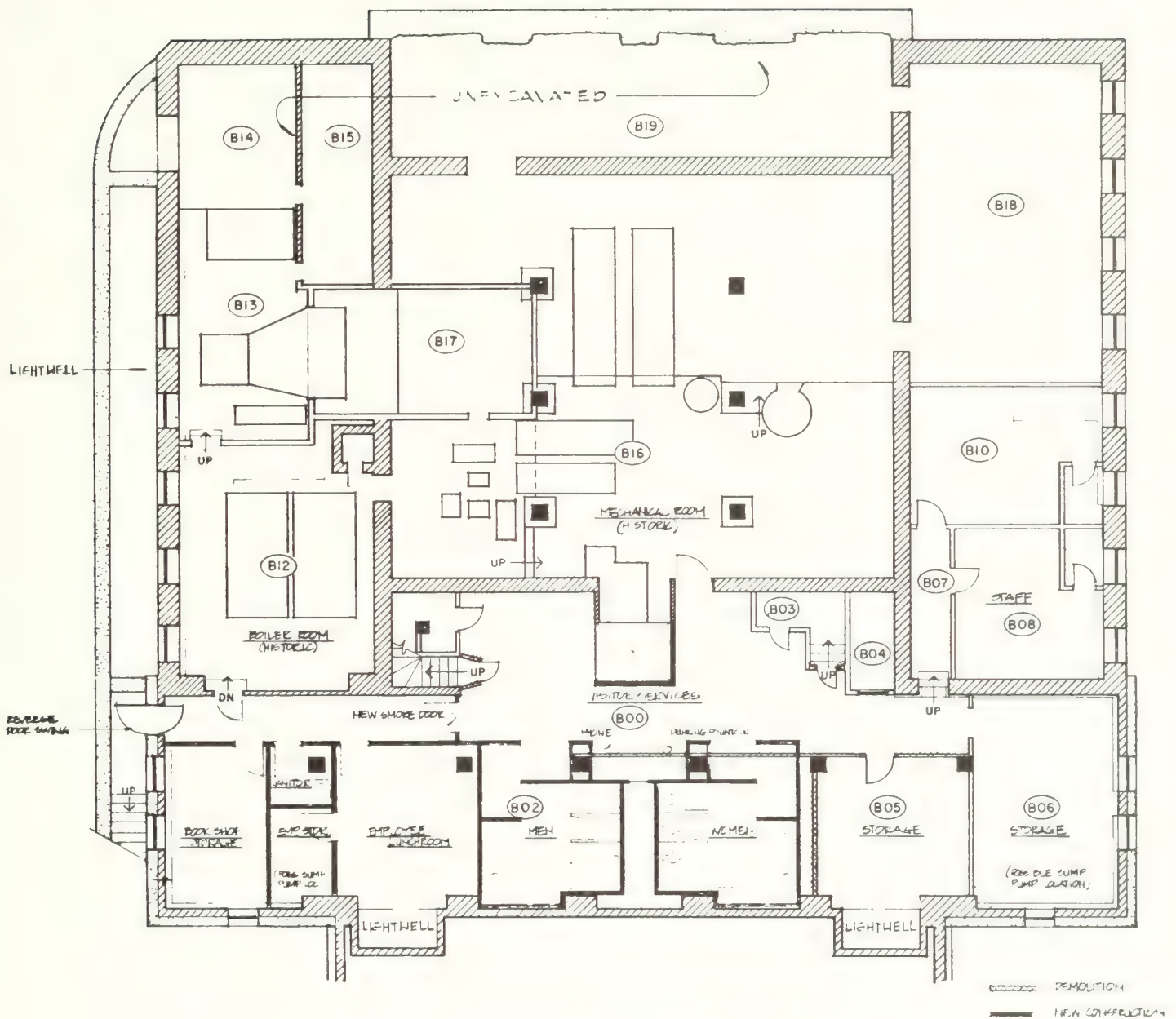
The interpretive objectives for the Fordyce Bathhouse as stated in the General Management Plan, Annual Statement for Interpretation and Visitor Services, and the Interpretive Prospectus include:

- Promoting public understanding and appreciation of the park's thermal features, geological resources, and ecological communities as well as the processes responsible for their continuing evolution;
- Fostering public awareness of the historical use of thermal spring water and the development of Bathhouse Row and the Hot Springs spa in the context of the American spa movement and the evolution of American health, leisure, recreation, and conservation traditions;
- Providing a high-quality visitor experience through rehabilitated, well-maintained facilities and effective visitor orientation, information, and interpretive programs; and
- Providing opportunities for visitors to see and use the thermal waters.

Many of these objectives will be accomplished through exhibits, audio-visual presentations, and other visitor services provided in the Fordyce. The historically furnished areas will provide an opportunity to see and in certain areas experience the ambience of the Fordyce Bathhouse during its "golden age," which took place from 1915 to 1920. The porch and lobby will be furnished with reproductions, which will allow visitors to personally experience these areas. All other areas will be furnished with original pieces or similar period furniture to their 1915-1920 appearance. The notable exception will be the Hubbard Tub room, which will be interpreted to 1939-1942, its period of operation.

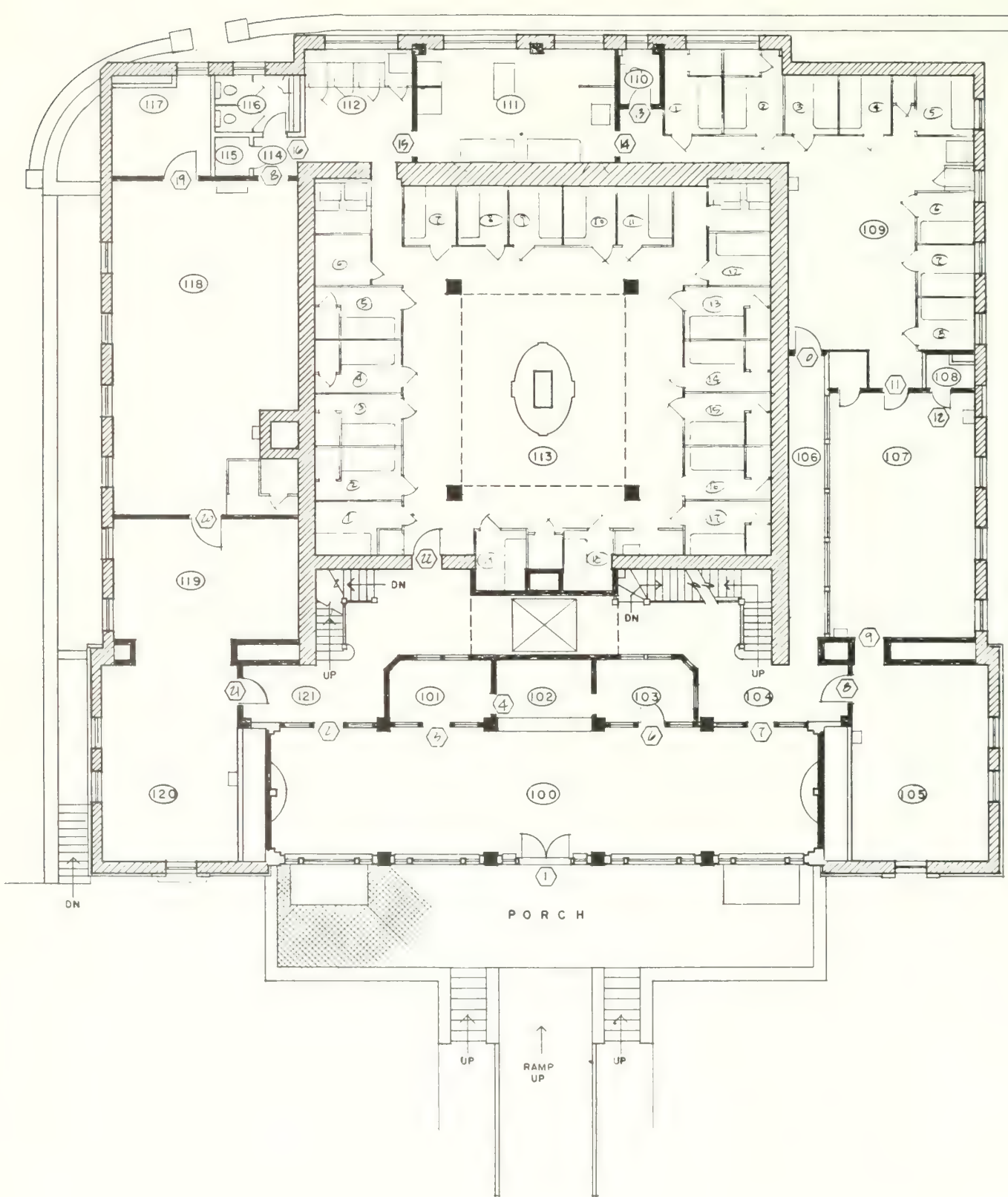
## OPERATING PLAN

The visitor flow pattern for the Fordyce Bathhouse will be designed to accommodate both guided and self-guided visitors on the first floor, but only guided visitors in the historically furnished areas of the second and third floor. Self-guided visitors will be able to follow the bathing regimen on the first floor and visit the exhibit rooms on the second floor, but alarmed doors will prevent visitors from entering the second and third floor furnished areas. Guides will have a key that will disarm these doors and allow them to take visitors into the furnished areas.



A BASEMENT PLAN





1st FLOOR PLAN



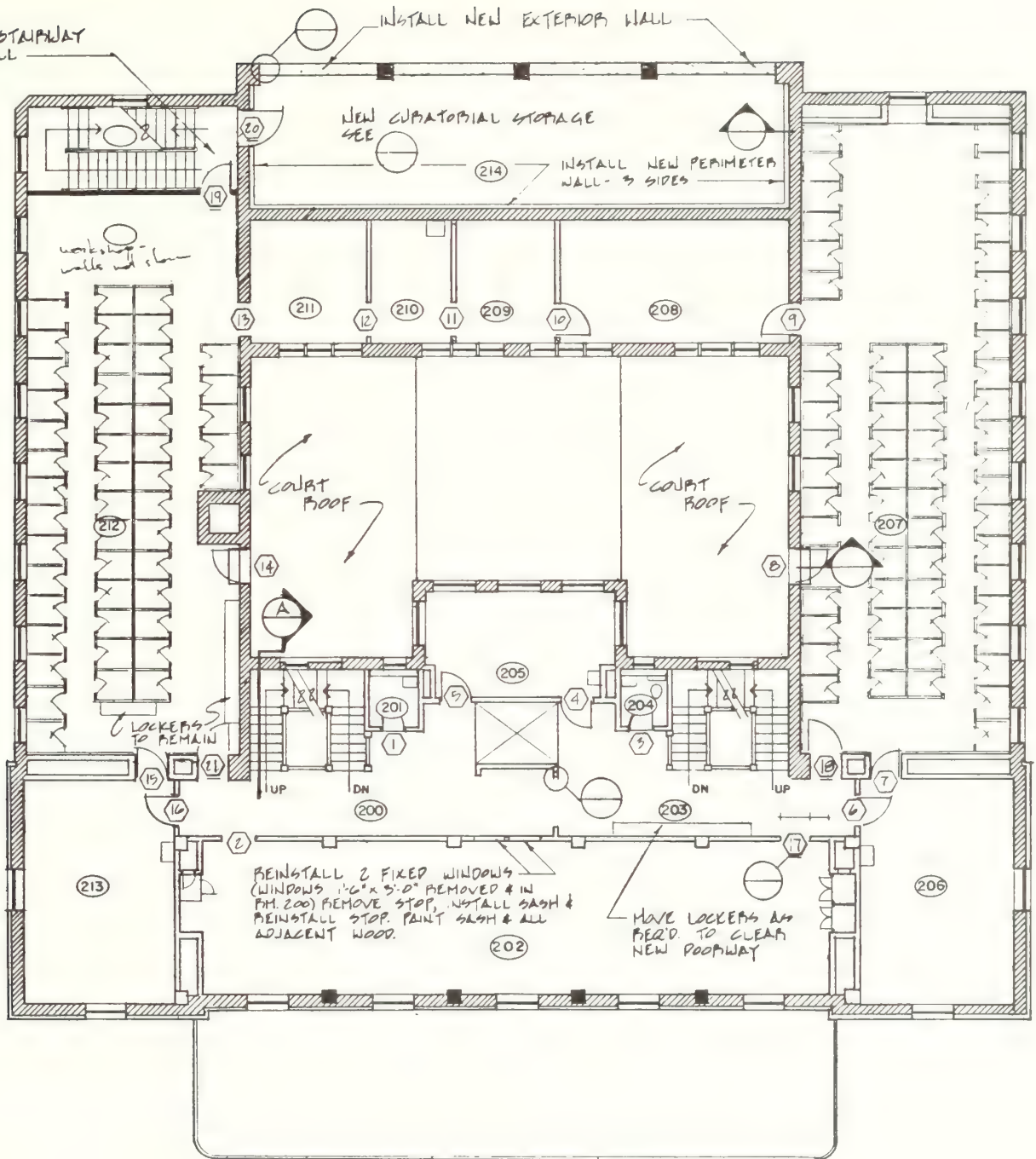


INSTALL NEW STAIRWAY  
& RELATED WALL  
SEE SHEET

INSTALL NEW EXTERIOR WALL

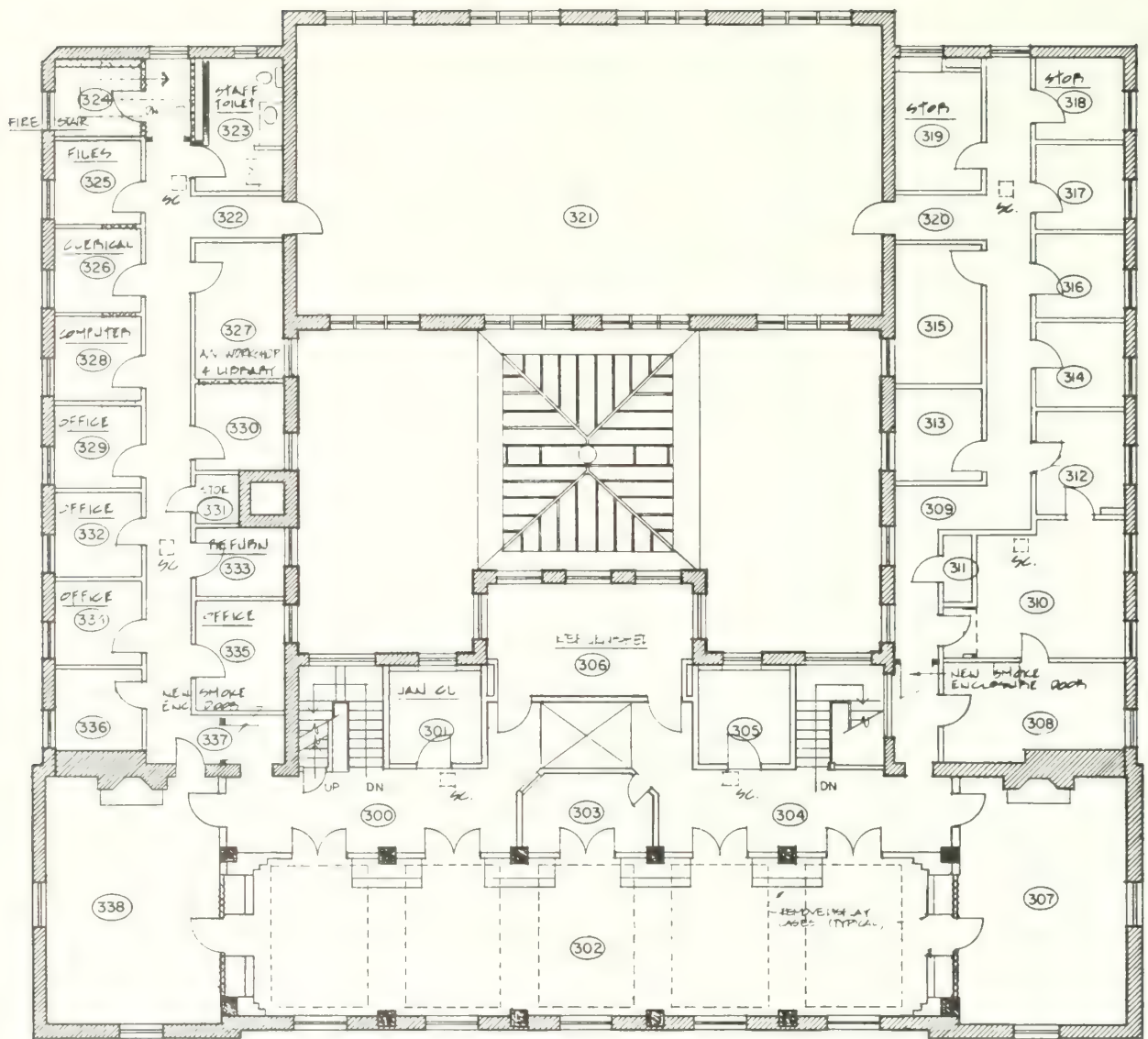
NEW CUBATORIAL STORAGE



INSTALL NEW PERIMETER  
WALL - 3 SIDES



(A) 2ND FLOOR PLAN





 PERMUTATION  
 NEW CONSTRUCTION

 3rd FLOOR PLAN



## SYNOPSIS OF RECOMMENDED FURNISHINGS

The 1915-1920 period was the most significant period in the operation of the Fordyce Bathhouse. Although most prosperous during the 1940s, the Fordyce Bathhouse established itself by 1920 as the most luxurious and prestigious bathhouse on Bathhouse Row. John Manier, the Fordyce's first manager, was an aggressive promoter of the bathhouse and worked hard during this time to develop facilities at the Fordyce that would appeal to its high class clientele and set it apart from the other bathhouses.

The 1915-1920 period is also the best documented period in the Fordyce Bathhouse's history. Manier's flair for promotion resulted in two advertising brochures, dated 1915 and c.1916, which contain interior photos of most of the rooms in the Fordyce. Although some of these photos must be used with caution, as explained in the evidence section, they provide the most comprehensive picture of the interior of the Fordyce during its entire 47-year history. Those rooms not pictured can be accurately re-created by using photos of similar rooms in the other bathhouses during this period.

Evidence also indicates that no major furniture purchases were made after 1915 until the lobby furniture was replaced in 1952. The same wicker and metal furniture, repeatedly reupholstered and repaired, was in use for most of the Fordyce's history. Thus, there is little purpose in interpreting the interior of the Fordyce to any other time period.

The only exception to this 1915-20 time frame would occur in the Hubbard Tub room. This room was formerly the mercury rubbing room, but no evidence survives picturing or describing this room's early furnishings. Therefore, this room will be refurnished to the 1939-1942 period, with the Hubbard Tub and overhead stretcher assembly returned to their original appearance. This room would be an excellent place to end a guided tour for several interpretive reasons. First, it would provide an opportunity to talk about the bathhouse at the peak of its financial

success. Second, the Hubbard Tub therapy provides an interpretive bridge from the older practice of taking the waters to modern underwater physiotherapy, putting the whole bathing experience in historical perspective. Third, it enables the interpreter to use familiar subjects like World War II, polio, arthritis, whirlpool baths, and sports medicine to relate the unfamiliar bathing experience to the lives of both young and old people.



Room #	Name	Furnishings	Fixtures	Structure
000	Porch	Furnish with maple benches, rockers, and armchairs as shown in early photos and postcards of Fordyce exterior (figures 3 and 4).	Reinstate original lighting scheme. Conserve Fordyce coat-of-arms on doors.	---
100	Lobby	Furnish as shown on p. 12 of "Fordyce Bath House" (figure 10).	Replace hanging and wall light fixtures. Rehabilitate fountains (one hot and one cool) to working order.	--
103 102	Office Clerk's Desk	Do not refurnish.		
101	Coatroom	Furnish with men's and ladies' outer garments, hats, and umbrellas. Provide winter and summer items for exhibition.	Clean and conserve existing coat and umbrella racks.	---
113	Men's Bath Hall	Repair marble benches currently on display; install two reproduction marble benches to replace missing ones (figure 19). Furnish bath compartments with metal armchairs as shown in photos from other bathhouses (figures 84 and 85).	Install bathtub from hydrotherapy room in compartment "H." Fasten doors to compartments "G" and "M" to prevent visitor access. Replace original light fixtures.	Replace marble partitions forming compartments "G" and "M," which were removed when sitz baths were installed.
109	Ladies' Bath Hall	Provide metal chairs in bathing compartments. Conserve marble bench.	Although it is suspected that the sitz tub does not date to the 1915-20 period, there is not enough evidence to support its removal. Replace original light fixtures. Install needle shower apparatus from men's pack room.	Repair marble partitions. Reconstruct needle shower to original size and configuration.

Room #	Name	Furnishings	Fixtures	Structure
111	Hydrotherapy Room	---	Remove and replace fixtures to re-create appearance of room, as shown on pp. 13 and 14 of "Fordyce Bath House" (figures 28 and 29). Remove all three bathtubs, store two and install one in men's bath hall. Install tub from men's bath hall compartment "H" where electric bath is shown in figure 28. Remove sitz tubs from northwest and southwest corners. Reproduce metal legs and plumbing for porcelain slab (currently in storage) and replace. Acquire or reproduce and install frigid cabinet and electric wall cabinets, and electric bath paraphernalia. Repair Scotch douche table. Replace original light fixtures.	---
112	Steam Room	---	Rebuild removed steam cabinet to match others in room. Leave sitz tub in place inside cabinet. Replace original light fixtures.	---
117	Hot Room	Do not refurnish.		
118	Men's Pack Room			

Room #	Name	Furnishings	Fixtures	Structure
107	Ladies' Pack Room	Furnish with metal lounges and chairs as shown in photograph of men's pack room, p. 14 of "Fordyce Bath House" (figure 32).	Replace original light fixtures.	---
119, 120, 213	Men's Cooling Rooms	Do not refurnish.		
105	Ladies' Cooling Room	Furnish with metal chairs and lounges as shown in photograph of men's cooling room, p. 15 of "Fordyce Bath House" (figure 37).	Replace original light fixtures.	---
202, 212	Men's Dressing Rooms	Do not refurnish room 202. Provide winter and summer clothing for exhibition in room 212.		
207	Ladies' Dressing Room	Furnish with leather upholstered lounge furniture as shown on p. 15 of "Fordyce Bath House" (figure 39).	Replace original light fixtures.	---
	Courtyards	Do not refurnish.		
205	Chiropody Room	No visual documentation available. Refurnish based on written documentation and common practice. Furnish with swivel chair with footrest, instrument cabinet, and chiropody instruments.	Replace original light fixtures.	Replace doors.

Room #	Name	Furnishings	Fixtures	Structure
209, 210, 211	Massage Rooms	Since no photos of massage rooms at the Fordyce exist from the 1915-20 period, refurnish according to common practice as shown in photos of massage rooms in other bathhouses in 1915-20 (figures 108-110).	Replace original light fixtures.	Replace doors.
310	Ladies' Massage Room	Furnish similar to room 209.	Repaint original light fixtures.	Repaint lettering on door.
208	Mechanotherapy Room	Do not refurnish for two reasons: (1) Difficulty of finding equipment shown in photo on p. 16 of "Fordyce Bath House (figure 45). (2) Room 208 actually much larger when photo was taken. Do not know room arrangement after partitions installed. Display two Zander exercise machines.	Replace original light fixtures.	Replace doors.
302 338 307	Assembly Room Men's Parlor Ladies' Parlor	Furnish as closely as possible to photos on pp. 18 and 19 of "Fordyce Bath House" (figures 46, 50, and 51). Replace curtains on outside of interior assembly room doors.	Repair marble cooler and sink in men's parlor. Replace beauty parlor sink and cabinets in ladies' parlor with marble cooler and sink. Replace original light fixtures. Replace gas log fixtures in fireplaces in men's and ladies' parlor.	Remove display cabinets built into archways and along east wall of assembly room.



Room #	Name	Furnishings	Fixtures	Structure
308	Beauty Parlor	Photo of beauty parlor on p. 17 of "Fordyce Bath House" staged in room 206, a much larger room (figure 52). Cannot fit all furniture shown in room 308. Furnish with selected pieces.	Replace original light fixtures.	Repaint lettering on door.
314, 317	Staterooms	Photo of stateroom on p. 15 of "Fordyce Bath House" also staged in room 206 (figure 57). Actual staterooms much smaller as shown in figure 58 taken in the 1940s. Furnish with bed with linens, dresser with mirror, metal armchair, and coat rack. Supply room 314 with winter and summer ladies' clothing for display as appropriate.	Replace original light fixtures.	Replace letter designation on door.
321	Gymnasium	Furnish as closely as possible to photo on p. 17 of "Fordyce Bath House" (figure 59).	Replace original light fixtures.	---
306	Hubbard Tub Room	Refurnish to its 1939-42 appearance as shown in numerous advertising photos (figures 63-71).	Repair Hubbard Tub, overhead stretcher, machinery, and tramtrack to working order. Replace light fixtures from 1939-42 period.	---



RECOMMENDED FURNISHINGS

PORCH -- 000 (Figs. 1-7)

Object	Source	Location	Documentation
000.1-2 SETTEES, two, turned maple with caned back and seats	Reproduce	In two rows on either side of front door	This caned furniture, part of the original Fordyce furnishings, was installed in 1915 and appears in figures 2-4. It was replaced by white enameled cypress porch furniture in the 1930s.
000.3-8 ROCKING ARMCHAIRS, six, to match settees			
000.9-14 ARMCHAIRS, six, to match settees			<u>Reference:</u> Porch #4

LOBBY -- 100 (Figs. 9-17)

Object	Source	Location	Documentation
100.1-12 ROCKING ARMCHAIRS, 12, wicker, tinted brown, with brown leather (or imitation leather) upholstery	Reproduce	Seven along west wall, five along east wall	Purchased in 1914-15, wicker furniture remained in use in the lobby and the assembly room until 1952, when the Fordyce management purchased new wrought iron furniture for the lobby and moved the remaining lobby wicker upstairs to the assembly room. The furnishings appear in figures 9-11, 15, and 16.
100.13-14 PLANT STANDS, two, wicker, tinted brown	Reproduce	East wall on floor on either side of reception desk	References: Lobby #1, General Furnishings #8
100.15-18 PLANT BASKETS, four, wicker, tinted brown	Reproduce	One on each side of fountains at north and south ends	
100.19 WALL CLOCK, one, electric, with square wooden frame	Acquire	East wall, above reception desk	This clock was installed when the bathhouse opened in 1915 but may have been replaced in 1936 along with other clocks in the bathhouse. Figure 15 shows a wall clock in the lobby.
100.20-25 VASES, six, assorted shapes	Acquire	On ledge above fountains at north and south ends	Various shaped vases appear in photographs and drawings of the lobby fountains dating from 1915 to 1925 (figures 9-11).



Object	Source	Location	Documentation
100.26-29 POTTED BOSTON FERNS, four, imitation, in clay pots	Acquire imitations	In plant baskets located on either side of fountains at north and south ends	Live potted plants were a distinctive feature in the Fordyce public rooms from 1915 to 1925 and appear in figures 9-11 and 15.
100.30-31 POTTED PALMS, two, imitation		East wall, in plant stands	
100.32-33 FOUNTAINS, two	In original locations	North and south ends of lobby	These fountains appear in a 1915 drawing and photograph (figures 9 and 10) and in 1925-30 and c.1934-39 photographs (figures 11 and 16) and are original to the building.  References: Lobby #1, 4, and 10
100.34-37 SPITTOONS, four	Reproduce	Along east wall	Spittoons appear in two 1915 photographs of the lobby (figures 9 and 10).



MEN'S BATH HALL -- 113 (Figs. 18 - 24)

Object	Source	Location	Documentation
113.1-24 METAL ARMCHAIRS, 20 COOLING CHAIRS, 4	HOSP HOSP 717-720	One armchair in each stall; one armchair and four cooling chairs around perimeter of bath court against marble partitions	The Fordyce purchased metal chairs in 1914. They continually used metal furniture in most rooms until the bathhouse closed. Figures 84 and 85 show chairs being used in bath stalls in the Imperial and Maurice Bathhouses. Figs. 19 and 22 show chairs being used in the central part of the men's bath hall.
113.25-28 MARBLE BENCHES, four	Two HOSP; DSC repro- ducing two	Form square in center of bath hall as shown in fig. 18	Original bathhouse furnishings included four marble benches. Two benches were removed after the bathhouse closed. Figures 18-20 and 22-24 show these benches.  References: General bath halls #3; <u>men's bath</u> hall #4, 5, 7, 9, 11, and 39
113.29 SPITTOON, one	HOSP 2298	Near tub in stall D	Bathhouses commonly provided spittoons in men's bath stalls. Figure 84 shows a spittoon in a stall in the Imperial bathhouse.
113.30-48 PAPER CUP DISPENSERS, 19	HOSP, uncataloged Acquire tube replacement where needed	One in each stall, except "G" and "M"	Various kinds of paper cup dispensers remain in bath stalls. The original style is unknown. These dispensers are early, if not original, equipment.

MEN'S BATH HALL -- 113

Object	Source	Location	Documentation
113.49 LIQUID SOAP CONTAINER, one	Acquire	On edge of tub, stall D	Bathhouses commonly used liquid soap containers. Figure 84 shows a liquid soap dispenser in a bath stall in the Maurice Bathhouse, c.1915.
113.50 WALL CLOCK, one, electric, round frame, 6½" diameter	Acquire	Mount on south marble partition	Ghosts of clocks appear in each stall. Clocks were probably installed when the bathhouse opened and were replaced periodically.
113.51 THERMOMETER	HOSP 2231	Hanging over edge of tub, stall D	Originally, tubs were constructed with built-in thermometers. These thermometers were difficult to clean and replace and were abandoned at some unknown time. Because of the lack of evidence, the built-in thermometers can't be reproduced. A standard thermometer will illustrate the importance of monitoring the water temperature.
Reference: Bath Halls, General, #18.			
113.52 DRAIN STOPPER	HOSP 3232	On edge of tub, stall D	Stoppers were used in tubs since 1915.
113.53 BATH MITT, one	HOSP 2630	On edge of tub, stall D, near liquid soap	Therapists used bath mitts in the Fordyce throughout the bathhouse's operation. Figure 25 shows a bath mitt in use in the ladies' bath hall in the Fordyce.



MEN'S BATH HALL -- 113

Object	Source	Location	Documentation
113.54 SHEET, one	Acquire	Thrown over wall partition, stall D	The Fordyce management provided sheets for their patrons throughout the bathhouse's operation. Men draped in sheets in the men's bath hall appear in figures 23 and 24.
113.55-57 TOWELS, three	Acquire	One on chair in stall D, two thrown over wall partition, stall D	Towels hang over wall partitions in figures 19, 23, and 24.
113.58 WALL CLOCK, one, electric, with square wooden frame	Acquire	East wall	Original bathhouse furnishings included clocks as shown in a 1915 photograph of the men's bath hall (figure 18). New clocks periodically replaced older models.
113.59-60 THERMOSTATS, two	HOSP	As mounted on pillars	Thermostats were installed when the bathhouse was constructed. The ones mounted on the pillars appear original.
113.61-80 BATHTUBS, 19	HOSP	One in each stall except "G" and "M"; move tub from west wall of room 111 into stall H	The men's bath hall originally contained 21 bathtubs. The Fordyce management switched the tub in stall H with one in room 111 in the late 1920s or early 1930s and at the same time or later moved tubs from stalls G and M to room 111.  References: Men's bath hall #1, bathtubs #4-7

MEN'S BATH HALL -- 113

Object	Source	Location	Documentation
113.81 SHOWER, one	HOSP	West wall	Original bathhouse furnishings included a shower. The one located on the west wall appears to be early if not original.
113.82 DE SOTO FOUNTAIN, one	HOSP	Center of room	Early bathhouse furnishings included the de Soto fountain, which appears in figures 19, 20, and 22-24 of the men's bath hall.  References: Men's bath hall #4, 7, 9, 11, and 13-24
113.83 WASTEPAPEr BASKET, one, wire	HOSP	Southwest corner	A wastepaper basket was required for paper cup refuse.
113.84-92 HEAD-IN STEAM CABINETS, nine	HOSP	One each in stalls "B," "C," "D," "E," "O," "P," "Q," "R," "S"	Head-in steam cabinets were part of the original furnishings in the bath halls.
113.93-111 HOOKS, 19	HOSP	One in each stall except "G" and "M"	Hooks attached to partitions appear to be original or early furnishings in bath stalls.

LADIES' BATH HALL -- 109 (Figs. 25 - 27)

Object	Source	Location	Documentation
109.1-10 METAL CHAIRS, eight COOLING CHAIRS, two	HOSP HOSP 721-722	One metal chair in each bath stall; one cooling chair along east partition and one along south wall	Each bath stall and the main bath area commonly contained chairs, purchased with the other metal furniture in 1914. Figures 84 and 85 show chairs used in bath stalls in the Imperial and the Maurice Bathhouses. Figures 19 and 22 show chairs used in the men's bath hall in the Fordyce Bathhouse.
109.11 BENCH, one, marble	HOSP	Along north wall	This bench remains in place since its installation when the bathhouse opened.  Reference: General bath halls #3
109.12-20 PAPER CUP DISPENSERS, nine, metal	HOSP	One each in stalls A-H Extra dispenser mounted on north wall near fountain	A fastener for a cup dispenser is located near the fountain; other dispensers and hooks survive intact in each bath stall and appear to be original or at least from the 1930s.
109.21-28 HOOKS, eight, metal	HOSP	One each in stalls A-H	
109.29 THERMOMETER, one	HOSP 2231	Hooked over edge of bathtub, stall C	Originally, tubs had built-in thermometers, but the design of this feature is unknown. Most bathhouses, including the Fordyce, hooked the thermometers over the side of the tub. Figures 84 and 85 show thermometers in use in the New Imperial and Maurice Bathhouses.

LADIES' BATH HALL -- 109

Object	Source	Location	Documentation
109.30 LIQUID SOAP CONTAINER, one	Acquire	On edge of tub, stall C	Bathhouses commonly used liquid soap containers. Figure 84 shows a liquid soap dispenser in a bath stall in the Maurice Bathhouse, c.1915.
109.31 WALL CLOCK, one, electric, round, 6½" diameter	Acquire	Mount on north wall partition, stall C	Clocks in bath stalls were probably installed when the bathhouse opened and were replaced periodically. Ghosts of the wall-mounted clocks appear in each bath stall.
109.32 PAPER CUP HOLDER, one, with paper cup	HOSP 2681	On edge of tub, stall C	What may be a paper cup holder appears in figure 25, a photograph of the bath-tub in the ladies' bath hall.
109.33 BATH MITT, one	HOSP 2253	On edge of tub, stall C	The therapist in figure 25 used a bath mitt. Bath mitts were used throughout operation of the Fordyce.
109.34 SHEET, one, white	Acquire	On sheet hook, stall C	The Fordyce management provided sheets for use by their patrons. Figures 23 and 24 show patrons wearing sheets in the men's bath hall.
109.35-36 TOWELS, two	Acquire	One on chair and one hanging over partition, stall C	Towels hang over wall partitions in figures 19, 23, and 24 of the men's bath hall.



LADIES' BATH HALL -- 109

Object	Source	Location	Documentation
109.37 FOOTSTOOL, one	HOSP	Inside tub, at end near drain	Footstools were purchased in 1916 to "shorten bathtubs for ladies."  Reference: Ladies' bath hall #6
109.38 THERMOSTAT, one	HOSP	North wall near fountain	New thermostats periodically replaced older ones installed when the building was constructed. The ghost of a thermostat appears on the north wall.
109.39 WALL CLOCK, electric, with square wooden frame, one	Acquire	East wall above electrical outlet	Original bathhouse furnishings included clocks.
109.40 DRAIN STOPPER, one, rubber	HOSP	On edge of tub, stall C	Stoppers were used in tubs since 1915.
109.41-48 BATHTUBS, eight	HOSP	One tub in each bath stall	The 1915 bathhouse construction included the installation of seven tubs. One tub was added in 1916.  References: Ladies' bath hall #1 and 5, bathtubs #5-7
109.49 HEAD-OUT STEAM CABINET, one 109.50-52 HEAD-IN STEAM CABINETS, three	HOSP HOSP	South wall	These steam cabinets were probably installed during bathhouse construction in 1915. Figure 27 shows the head-out steam cabinet in use.  Reference: Ladies' bath hall #3

LADIES' BATH HALL -- 109

Object	Source	Location	Documentation
109.53	SITZ TUB, one	South wall	The Fordyce installed the sitz tub here after 1929 since in 1929 the Fordyce had only one sitz tub, located in the hydrotherapy room. How this space was original used is unknown (possibly another steam cabinet).
Reference: Sitz tub #1			
109.54	CUP FOUNTAIN, one	North wall	The cup fountain was installed when the bathhouse was built.
109.55	WASTEPAPER BASKET, one, wire	Acquire	A wastepaper basket was required for paper cup refuse.

# HYDROTHERAPY ROOM -- 111 (Figs. 28 - 30)

Object	Source	Location	Documentation
111.1 ELECTRIC LIGHT BATH, one	Acquire or reproduce	Northeast corner	Hydrotherapy equipment installed in 1915 included the electric light bath, which the Fordyce management removed in the 1930s. The electric light bath appears in figure 28 of the hydrotherapy room.  <u>References:</u> Hydrotherapy room #2, 4, 8, 13, and 14
111.2 STOOL, one	HOSP 1159	Inside electric light bath	Therapists sat on a stool inside the electric light bath during therapy as shown in a photograph of the Buckstaff Bathhouse's electric light bath (figure 98).
111.3 FRIGID CABINET, one	Acquire or reproduce	North wall	In 1915 the Fordyce management installed the frigid cabinet and probably removed it in the 1920s. The frigid cabinet appears in figure 28.  <u>References:</u> Hydrotherapy room #2 and 4
111.4 METAL TABLE, one, with drain and water supply	Tabletop--HOSP Reproduce legs and plumbing	West wall	The metal table, or "porcelain slab," installed in 1915 was probably removed in the 1930s and appears in figures 28 and 29.  <u>Reference:</u> Hydrotherapy room #13

# HYDROTHERAPY ROOM -- 111

Object	Source	Location	Documentation
111.5-6 ELECTRIC BATH WALL CABINET and RECTIFIER, mounted on shelves; wires; and	Acquire or reproduce	Mount shelves, cabinet, and rectifier on west wall, hang electrodes on edges of tub	The electric bath wall cabinet and rectifier installed in 1915 were probably removed in the 1930s. They appear in figures 28 and 29.
111.7-10 ELECTRODES, four			<u>References:</u> Hydrotherapy room #1-4, 13, and 14
111.11 MARBLE SHELF with metal brackets, one	Reproduce	East wall	Hydrotherapy room furnishings included the marble shelf installed in 1915 as shown in figure 28. The date of its removal is unknown.
111.12-22 TOWELS, white, 11	Acquire	Nine on marble shelf east wall; two on metal table as pillow	Towels, rolled for use as pillows, appear in figures 28 and 29.
111.23 THERMOSTAT, one	HOSP	West wall	The thermostat mounted on the west wall is old, if not original to bathhouse construction.
111.24 NEEDLE SHOWER, one	Acquire from Libbey	Southeast corner	Original bathhouse furnishings included the needle shower, which appears in figure 30. The date of its removal is unknown.



# HYDROTHERAPY ROOM -- 111

Object	Source	Location	Documentation
111.25 111.26 SCOTCH DOUCHE TABLE, marble, and MARBLE CABINET, wall- mounted	Restore or replace table, acquire or reproduce wall unit	East wall	Installed when the bathhouse opened, this table and cabinet were removed at an unknown date. This equipment appears in figures 28 and 30.  <u>References:</u> Hydrotherapy room #2-4 and 14-15
111.27 BATHTUB, one	Remove current tub, replace with tub from stall H of men's bath hall	West wall	In the late 1920s or early 1930s, the Fordyce management switched the tub originally installed when the bathhouse opened with the tub from stall H of the men's bath hall. The tub in stall H of room 113 matches the style of the origi- nal tub in room 111. The tub used in the hydrotherapy room appears in figures 28 and 29.  <u>References:</u> Hydrotherapy room #1-4, 9-10, and 13-14

STEAM CABINET ROOM -- 112 (Fig. 31)

Object	Source	Location	Documentation
112.1-4 STEAM CABINETS, four	Rebuild original cabinets, reproduce missing cabinet exterior	East wall	One of the four steam cabinets installed when the bathhouse opened was replaced with a sitz bath after 1934. Three cabinets appear in a c.1934-39 photo (figure 31).
References: Steam room #3-5 and 7-8, sitz baths #1			
112.5 WALL CLOCK, one, electric, with round wood frame	Acquire	West wall above electrical outlet	Wall clocks were part of the original bathhouse furnishings. All clocks in the bathhouse were replaced periodically. Holes in west wall near the electrical outlet indicate the presence of clocks.
112.6 THERMOSTAT, one	Repair or replace with thermostat in better condition	West wall	The original or an old thermostat, which was installed when the bathhouse was constructed, remains in place on the west wall.

LADIES' PACK ROOM -- 107 (Fig. 36)

Object	Source	Location	Documentation
107.1-11 LOUNGES, 11, white enameled metal	HOSP 809-820	Heads of lounges against walls; six along north and five along south walls	Metal furniture, installed in the pack rooms in 1915, remained in use until the bathhouse closed and appear in figures 32-36.  <u>References:</u> Metal furniture #1-12
107.12-13 COOLING CHAIRS, two, white enameled metal	HOSP 723-724	One along west wall near door, one along south wall near sink	
107.14 WALL CLOCK, one, electric, square with "cut-off" corners, wooden frame	Acquire	Mount on east wall above door to 109	Clocks were installed in the pack rooms in 1915 and were periodically repaired or replaced. The ghost of a clock remains on the east wall. Figure 32 shows a clock used in the men's pack room.
107.15-17 PAPER CUP DISPENSER, metal	HOSP	Mount on west wall above cup fountain	Patients drank thermal water from paper cups as part of their "cure." The fastener for a paper cup dispenser is located on the west wall.

LADIES' PACK ROOM -- 107

Object	Source	Location	Documentation
107.18 TOWEL HAMPER, one, splint	HOSP 2282	South wall near sink	Throughout the twentieth century, ladies' pack rooms commonly contained towel hampers made of wicker or splints. By the 1940s, the Fordyce used canvas and metal towel hampers. Towel hampers appear in use in the men's pack room in figure 35.
107.19 CLOTHES WRINGER, one	Acquire	On table next to pack sink, south wall	The ladies' pack room would have contained a clothes wringer similar to one purchased for the men's pack room in 1915.  <u>Reference:</u> Men's pack room #3
107.20 THERMOSTAT	HOSP	West wall, near doorway to 105 (remove newer thermostat mounted in center of west wall)	The present thermostat replaced one installed in the bathhouse during construction. The ghost of the old thermostat and wires remains near the doorway to room 105.
107.21-22 TOWELS, two, white	Acquire	One in clothes wringer, one over edge of sink	"Hot or cold towels, soaked in natural water, are applied to affected part in the pack room." The application of the hot packs appears in figure 36.



LADIES' PACK ROOM -- 107

Object	Source	Location	Documentation
107.23 SINK, utility, one	HOSP	As mounted on south wall	These fixtures remain since their original installation when the bathhouse was built.
107.24 FOUNTAIN, cup, one	HOSP	As mounted on west wall	
107.25 WASTEPAPEER BASKET, one, wire	Acquire	Under cup fountain (west wall)	Wastepaper baskets were commonly found near fountains and sink.
107.26 TABLE, one, wall-mounted	Acquire or reproduce	Bolt to south wall, east side of sink	This table, bolted to the wall in three places, supported the clothes wringer. Bolt remnants on the south wall indicate placement.
107.27 NEEDLE SHOWER, one	Replace with needle shower apparatus and parts from men's pack room	In reconstructed extension in 109	Early plans show that this needle shower originally extended into room 109 and opened onto the passage between 107 and 109. The ghost of a shower stall and piping on the floor in room 109 indicates that the actual shower was originally in the 109 extension. The shower apparatus has been removed since the bathhouse closed.
107.28 CURTAINS	Reproduce	Hanging across windows, north wall	Curtain hardware above the windows indicates former presence of curtains. Curtains screened the pack room from the corridor and provided privacy for the ladies in the pack room.

LADIES' COOLING ROOM -- 105

Object	Source	Location	Documentation
105.1-8 COOLING CHAIRS, eight, white enameled metal	HOSP 725-732	Four along north wall, two along south wall (east end), and two along east wall Heads of lounges against south wall (west end)	The metal furniture purchased in 1915 appears in the similarly furnished men's cooling room (figures 37 and 38).  <u>References:</u> Metal furniture #1-12
105.9-13 LOUNGES, five, white enameled metal	HOSP 821-825		
105.14 PAPER CUP DISPENSER, one, metal	HOSP	Mount on north wall, center above sink	Patients drank thermal water as part of the "cure" practiced at the bathhouse. The fastener for a dispenser is mounted on the wall over the sink.
105.15 WASTEPAPEr BASKET, one, wire,	Acquire	Under sink (north wall)	Wastepaper baskets were commonly found near sinks in the bathhouses. Figure 103 shows wastepaper baskets in use in the Maurice Bathhouse bathing lounge.
105.16 WALL CLOCK, one, electric, with round wooden frame (approx. 16" in diameter)	Acquire	Mount on north wall above electrical outlet	Clocks were installed in the cooling rooms in 1915 and were periodically repaired or replaced as needed. The ghost of a clock remains on the north wall. Clocks appear in the men's cooling room (figures 37-38) and in the second ladies' cooling room (figure 52).

LADIES' COOLING ROOM -- 105

Object	Source	Location	Documentation
105.17	HOSP	As mounted on north wall	The present thermostat was probably an early replacement for one installed when the bathhouse was constructed.
105.18-19	HOSP	As mounted on north wall	Original ladies' cooling room furnishings included this sink, which remains mounted on the north wall.

# LINEN CLOSET -- 108

	Object	Source	Location	Documentation
108.1-20	TOWELS, twenty, white	Acquire	On shelves	The Fordyce management furnished sheets for patron use throughout bathhouse operation. The bathhouse also provided towels for patrons who forgot to bring their own. Towels appear in photographs of bathhouse interiors (figures 22, 23, 24, 35, 36, 38, and others).
108.21-30	SHEETS, ten, white	Acquire	On shelves	
108.31	CORN BROOM, one	HOSP, uncataloged	On floor	<p>Ledger accounts indicate that the Fordyce management purchased these consumables regularly from 1915 on. As the only closet on the ladies' side of the first floor, 108 would have been a logical place to store cleaning supplies and some consumables.</p> <p><u>References:</u> Ladies' pack room #3, General furnishings &amp; repairs #12 and 15</p>
108.32	METAL BUCKET, one	HOSP, uncataloged	On floor	
108.33-35	BRUSHES, three	Acquire	On shelf	
108.36	STRING MOP, one	HOSP, uncataloged	On floor	
108.37	LIQUID SOAP	Acquire	On shelf	
108.38	DISINFECTANT	Acquire	On shelf	
108.39	SCOURING POWDER	Acquire	On shelf	
108.40	PAPER CUPS	Acquire	On shelf	
108.41	TOILET PAPER	Acquire	On shelf	
108.42	PAPER TOWELS	Acquire	On shelf	



HALLWAY -- 203

Object	Source	Location	Documentation
203.1-162 LOCKERS, 162	HOSP, uncataloged	West wall	"Sterlizing lockers" installed during bathhouse construction remain in hall-way.
<u>References:</u> Hall #1-5			

# MEN'S DRESSING ROOM -- 212

Object	Source	Location	Documentation
212.1-2 MEN'S SUITS OF CLOTHES, c.1920, one summer and one winter	Acquire	On locking clothes hook in dressing stall	Patrons commonly left their clothes in the dressing stalls throughout the operation of the bathhouse.
212.3-4 MEN'S UNDERWEAR, c.1920, one summer and one winter	Acquire	Change clothing display for seasonal interpretation	
212.5-6 MEN'S SHIRTS, c.1920, one summer and one winter	Acquire		
212.7-8 MEN'S SOCKS, c.1920, one pair summer and one pair winter	Acquire		
212.9-10 MEN'S TIES, c.1920, one summer and one winter	Acquire		
212.11-12 MEN'S SHOES, c.1920, one pair summer and one pair winter	Acquire	On bench seat	
212.13-14 COLLARS, c.1920, one summer and one winter	Acquire	On bench seat	
212.15-18 CUFFLINKS, SUSPENDERS, LEG GARTERS, and ARMBANDS, one pair of each, use for both winter and summer	Acquire	On bench seat	
212.19-117 LOCKERS, 99	HOSP, uncataloged	South wall	These "sterilizing lockers" appear to be original furnishings for the men's dressing room.

# LADIES' DRESSING ROOM -- 207 (Fig. 39)

Object	Source	Location	Documentation
207.1-2 207.3-4 207.5-6 207.7	WOMEN'S DRESSES, c.1920, one summer and one winter TEDDY and PETTICOAT, c.1920, use for both summer and winter WOMEN'S STOCKINGS, c.1920, one pair summer and one pair winter WOMAN'S GIRDLE, c.1920, one	On locking clothes hook in dressing stall #56 Change clothing for seasonal interpretation On bench seat, dressing stall #56	Patrons left their street clothes in the dressing stalls throughout the operation of the bathhouse.
207.8-9	WOMAN'S SHOES, c.1920, one pair summer and one pair winter	Acquire	
207.10-11 207.12-13 207.14-15	GLOVES, c.1920, one pair summer and one pair winter WOMEN'S HATS, c.1920, one summer and one winter WOMEN'S HANDBAGS, c.1920, one summer and one winter	Acquire Acquire Acquire	
207.16 207.17 207.18 107.19 107.20-21	ARMCHAIR, SIDE CHAIR, PLATFORM ROCKER, NURSE'S ROCKER, two LOUNGES, wood and leather	Acquire Acquire Acquire Acquire Acquire	Much of this furniture probably came from the Palace Bathhouse gentlemen's parlor (figure 77) and also from other areas of the Palace (figures 73-75) as shown by comparing these photographs with figure 39 of the ladies' dressing room in the Fordyce Bathhouse. The date of the furniture's removal is unknown.
207.22	CENTER TABLE, with marble top	In lounge area, east end of room Heads against east wall in lounge area Center of lounge area	

LADIES' DRESSING ROOM -- 207

	Object	Source	Location	Documentation
207.23	VASE	Acquire	On center table	
207.24-25	NEWSPAPER and MAGAZINE, c.1920, one of each	Acquire	On center table	A magazine or newspaper appears in a photograph of the ladies' dressing room in the Fordyce Bathhouse (figure 39).
207.26-27	THERMOSTATS, two	HOSP	One on east wall One on west wall	Thermostats were installed when the bathhouse was constructed. The thermostat at the east end is probably original; the newer thermostat at west end probably replaced an older one.



# CHIROPODY ROOM -- 205

Object	Source	Location	Documentation
205.1 CHIROPODY CHAIR, one	HOSP, uncataloged	Center of room	The Fordyce management purchased furniture and equipment for the chiropody room in 1918. The chair remains in the room; the other furniture, however, was removed at an unknown date.  <u>References:</u> Chiropody room #3-6, 8, and 9
205.2 INSTRUMENT CABINET, one, metal with glass in doors	HOSP 2822	East wall	A cabinet filled with chiropody tools was in use in this room at least by the late 1930s and probably from the time the chiropodist began work.  <u>Reference:</u> Chiropody room #15
205.3 CHIROPODY INSTRUMENTS, assorted	Acquire	In and on instrument cabinet	
205.4-6 CURTAIN RODS WITH CURTAINS, three	Reproduce	Rods fit into rod braces on walls; curtains hang from rods	Curtain rods and curtains partitioned the chiropody room into two waiting areas and a treatment area. Rod braces remain in place on the walls. The date of the partition's installation is unknown.
205.7-9 INSTRUMENT STERILIZER, ELECTRIC DRILL, ELECTRIC OSCILLATOR, one each	HOSP 2445; Acquire drill and oscillator	On instrument cabinet net	Purchased in 1936, these instruments probably replaced earlier, similar equipment.  <u>References:</u> Chiropody room #13-14
205.10 INSTRUMENT TABLE, one, metal with glass top	HOSP 2811	Near stool	An instrument table and stool were common chiropody room furnishings.
205.11 STOOL, metal swivel, one	HOSP 2824	Near foot-rest of chiropody chair	<u>References:</u> Chiropody room #3-6, 8, and 9

CHIROPODY ROOM -- 205

Object	Source	Location	Documentation
205.12 TELEPHONE, wall-mounted, one	Acquire	Mount on north wall	A telephone was probably installed when the chiropody department opened in 1915. A telephone base is located on the north wall.
205.13-14 METAL ROCKERS, two	HOSP 794 and 795	One each in ladies' and men's waiting area	Metal furniture purchased in 1914. Patrons required furniture to sit on while waiting to see the chiropodist.  References: Metal furniture #1-12
205.15-16 MAGAZINES, two	Acquire	On chair, ladies' waiting area, south end	Bathhouses commonly provided patrons with magazines to read while waiting to see the chiropodist. Figure 39 shows magazines put out for patrons in the ladies' dressing room.
205.17 BATH SLIPPERS	Acquire	On floor, near chiropody chair	Photographs show that patrons frequently wore slippers while visiting the bathhouse. Men wear slippers in figure 24 of the men's bath hall; women wear slippers in figures 55 and 56 of the beauty parlor.
205.18 SINK, one	HOSP	As mounted on south wall	Original bathhouse furnishings included this sink mounted on the south wall.
205.19 LIQUID SOAP DISPENSER, glass, one	Acquire from Lamar	Attach to sink	A liquid soap dispenser was probably installed with the sink. The metal ring, which supported a liquid soap dispenser, remains attached to the sink.

CHIROPODY ROOM -- 205

Object	Source	Location	Documentation
205.20	HOSP	As mounted on south wall above sink	Original bathhouse furnishings probably included this mirror. The mirror mounted on the south wall appears original.
205.21	Acquire from Lamar	Mounted on south wall near sink	The presence of a soap dispenser indicates that the sink was used for handwashing. The chiropodist would have needed paper towels and a wastebasket as well.
205.22	Acquire	WASTEPAPER BASKET, one, wire	

MESSAGE ROOM -- 209 (Figs. 41 and 43)

Object	Source	Location	Documentation
209.1 MESSAGE TABLE, one	HOSP 3098	Head of table 24" from center of east wall	The bathhouse management purchased message furniture in 1915-21 and used this furniture throughout the bathhouse's operation.  <u>References:</u> Message room #5, 6, 7, 17, and 21
209.2 PAD, one	Reproduce	On message table	Sheets covered pads and pillows on massage tables in the massage room as shown in figures 41 and 43.
209.3 PILLOW, one	Reproduce	On pad, east end	
209.4 SHEET, one	Acquire	Over pad and pillow on massage table	
209.5 TABLE, metal, one	HOSP 2836	Northeast corner	Masseurs and masseuses commonly used equipment tables in the bathhouses from 1915 to 1925. A table used in the Buckstaff massage department appears in figure 109.
209.6 INFRARED LAMP with	HOSP 3235 Acquire	Southeast corner	Massage rooms at the Fordyce contained infrared lamps by 1930.
209.7 INFRARED LIGHT BULB			<u>Reference:</u> Message room #24
209.8 ALCOHOL BOTTLE	Acquire Acquire	On table On table	Various containers used in the Buckstaff and Quapaw Bathhouses appear in figures 109 and 110.
209.9 MESSAGE OIL BOTTLE			<u>Reference:</u> Message room #30



MESSAGE ROOM -- 209

Object		Source	Location	Documentation
209.10	ELECTRIC MESSAGE EQUIPMENT	Acquire	On table	The Fordyce purchased electrical apparatus for its message rooms from 1915 to 1921 and used this equipment until the 1930s.

MESSAGE ROOM -- 210 (Figs. 41 and 43)

Object	Source	Location	Documentation
210.1 MESSAGE TABLE, one	HOSP 3099	Head of table 24" from center of east wall	<p>Message rooms contained this furniture purchased in 1915-21 for use throughout Fordyce bathhouse operation.</p> <p><u>References:</u> Message room #5, 6, 7, 17, and 21</p>
210.2 PAD, one	Reproduce	On massage table	<p>Sheets covered pads and pillows on massage tables in the message rooms as shown in figures 41 and 43.</p>
210.3 PILLOW, one	Reproduce	On pad, east end	
210.4 SHEET, one	Reproduce	Over pad and pillow on massage table	
210.5 TABLE, one, wooden with splay legs	Acquire	Northeast corner	<p>Masseurs and masseuses commonly used tables for their equipment in the bathhouses from 1915 to 1925. A wooden table appears in use in a Quapaw massage room in figure 110.</p>
210.6 VIBRATOR, on stand, one	HOSP 2796	South wall	<p>From 1915 until at least 1930, therapies performed at the Fordyce Bathhouse included electric vibratory massage. Vibrators are illustrated in figures 42 and 45.</p> <p><u>References:</u> Mechanotherapy room #4 and 10</p>

MESSAGE ROOM -- 210

Object	Source	Location	Documentation
210.7	CABINET, glass-fronted, wall-mounted, one	Acquire	Massage rooms commonly contained these items from 1915 to 1925. These objects appear in use in the Quapaw Bathhouse in figure 110.
210.8	PAPER TOWEL DISPENSER, wall-mounted, one	Acquire from Lamar	
210.9	WASTEBASKET, one	Acquire from Maurice	
210.10	ALCOHOL BOTTLE	In glass-fronted cabinet	Therapists commonly used these bottles in massage rooms from 1915 to 1925. Figures 109 and 110 show various containers in use in the Buckstaff and Quapaw massage rooms.
210.11	MESSAGE OIL BOTTLE		
<u>Reference:</u> Message room #30			
210.12	PHOTOPHORE	On massage table	The electric light bath, a similar device designed for the whole body, was used in the hydrotherapy room (figure 28). The photophore in the HOSP collection survives from The Government Free Bathhouse.
210.13	SINK	Southeast corner	The sink in room 210 replaced the original pedestal sink at an unknown date. See figure 45 for an illustration of the original sink.

MESSAGE ROOM -- 211 (Figs. 41 and 43)

Object	Source	Location	Documentation
211.1 MESSAGE TABLE, one	HOSP 3042	Head 24" from south wall	The Fordyce management purchased massage furniture from 1915 to 1921.  <u>References:</u> Massage room #5-7, 17, and 21
211.2 PAD, one	Reproduce	On massage table	Sheets covered pads and pillows on massage tables in the massage rooms as shown in figures 41 and 43.
211.3 PILLOW, one	Reproduce	On pad, east end	
211.4 SHEET, one	Reproduce	Over pad and pillow on massage table	
211.5-6 TABLES, two	Acquire small table from Lamar; acquire one other larger table	One under wall cabinet, one against center of east wall	From 1915 to 1925 bathhouse massage rooms commonly contained various tables. A metal and glass table in the Buckstaff massage department appears in figure 109.
211.7 BIRTMAN ELECTRICAL THERAPY APPLIANCE, wall-mounted, one	Acquire or Reproduce	Mount on south wall, over outlet	Until 1913 the Palace Bathhouse used the Birtman wall cabinet and assorted vibrators (figure 75). In 1915 the Fordyce management installed the same or similar equipment and removed it probably in the late 1920s or early 1930s. The Quapaw Bathhouse used the same equipment (figure 110).
211.8 RECTIFIER, one	Acquire or Reproduce	On table, under wall cabinet	
211.9 VIBRATOR, one	Acquire	On table, center of east wall	



MESSAGE ROOM -- 211

Object	Source	Location	Documentation
211.10-11 SHELVES, marble with metal brackets, two	Reproduce	East wall	Wall-mounted shelves appear in message rooms in figures 75, 109, and 110. Metal brackets and ghosts of two shelves on the east wall of room 211 indicate the shelves' placement.
211.12 211.13 ALCOHOL BOTTLE MESSAGE OIL	Acquire Acquire	On marble table	Message rooms commonly contained alcohol and massage oil bottles. Various containers appear in use in the Buckstaff and Quapaw Bathhouse massage rooms in figures 109 and 110.  <u>Reference:</u> Message room #30
211.14 ELECTRIC FAN	Acquire	On marble shelf	Message rooms commonly contained electric fans throughout the operation of the bathhouse. Figure 110 shows an electric fan in use in the Quapaw massage room.  <u>References:</u> General furnishings #11 and 14

MESSAGE ROOM -- 310 (Figs. 42 and 44)

Object	Source	Location	Documentation
310.1-2 MESSAGE TABLES, two	HOSP, uncataloged HOSP 2834	Heads against south wall	Expense ledgers identify massage furniture purchases from 1915 to 1921 for use in the expanding massage "sideline" at the Fordyce Bathhouse.
References: Message room 5-7, 17, and 21			
310.3-4 PADS, two;	Reproduce	On massage tables	Sheets covered pads and pillows on massage tables in the massage rooms as shown in figures 41-44.
310.5-6 PILLOWS, two; and	Reproduce	On pads, south end	
310.7-8 SHEETS, two	Reproduce	Over pad and pillow on each massage table	
310.9 TABLE, metal;	HOSP, uncataloged	East wall	Photographs show various kinds of tables in use in bathhouse massage rooms from 1915 to 1925. A metal and glass table appears in the Buckstaff massage department (figure 109), and a table with a porcelain metal top appears in the Quapaw massage department (figure 110).
310.10 TABLE, porcelain metal top, one drawer	Acquire	South wall, between massage tables	
310.11 ELECTRICAL MESSAGE EQUIPMENT WITH ELECTRODES	HOSP 901	On table between massage tables	The Fordyce purchased electrical apparatus for its massage rooms from 1915 to 1921 and used this equipment until the 1930s.

MESSAGE ROOM -- 310

Object	Source	Location	Documentation
310.12	BIRTMAN ELECTRICAL THERAPY APPLIANCE, wall-mounted, one	Acquire or reproduce	A Birtman appliance used in the Palace massage room appears in figure 75, and one used in the Quapaw massage department appears in figure 110. The appliance should be mounted on the south wall because the public would not be able to see the appliance if mounted on the north wall as seen in figure 42.
310.13	RECTIFIER, one	Mount on south wall On table below Birtman appliance	
References: Massage room #1, 6, 17, and 19			
310.14	PAPER TOWEL DISPENSER;	Over sink	Massage rooms in bathhouses commonly contained these items from 1915 to 1925. Quapaw massage department equipment appears in figure 110.
310.15	FAN, electric; and	On table, east wall	
310.16	WASTERASKET	Under sink	
310.17	ALCOHOL BOTTLE	Acquire	Massage rooms contained containers for alcohol and massage oil from 1915 to 1925. Various containers in use in the Buckstaff and Quapaw massage rooms appear in figures 109 and 110.
310.18	MASSAGE OIL BOTTLE	On table, east wall On table, east wall	
Reference: Massage room #30			
310.19-20	VIBRATOR, with STAND	West wall	Vibrators and infra-red therapy were offered in the ladies' massage room as seen in figure 42.
310.21-22	INFRA-RED LIGHT, with BULB	East wall	
310.23	SINK	As mounted on east wall	This sink appears to be an original fixture in this room.

	Object	Source	Location	Documentation
302.1-9	WICKER ARMCHAIRS, nine, painted grey, with grey leather upholstery;	Acquire	Four along east wall, Five along west wall	Installed in 1915, this wicker furniture remained in use until the bathhouse closed. Figures 46 and 47 show the wicker furniture upholstered in leather.
302.10-18	WICKER ROCKING ARMCHAIRS nine, painted grey, with grey leather upholstery;	HOSP 2158-2166 and HOSP 2168	Four along east wall, Five along east wall	<u>References:</u> General furnishings #8, assembly room #1
302.19-20	WICKER WRITING DESKS, two, painted grey;	Acquire	Along east wall	
302.21-22	WICKER SIDE CHAIRS, two, painted grey; and	Acquire	One at each desk	
302.23	WICKER CENTER TABLE, one, painted grey	Acquire	In front of middle window, west wall	
302.24-27	WICKER PLANT STANDS, four, painted grey	Acquire	In front of windows (except middle one), west wall	Plants in wicker plant stands were installed in 1915 and appear in figures 46 and 47. When they were removed is unknown.
	BOSTON FERNS, synthetic imitations, in pots, four	Acquire	In plant stands	<u>References:</u> General furnishings #9, assembly room #1
302.28-32	CURTAINS, off-white, shirred onto rods attached to hallway doors, five pair	Reproduce curtains and rods (original hardware mounted on doors)	On corridor side of French doors	Curtains were installed in 1918 and removed at an unknown date. <u>References:</u> Assembly room #9 and 10
302.33	STATIONERY, Fordyce Bath House, paper and envelopes	Reproduce	On desks	Patrons used stationery provided by the bathhouse throughout its operation. Some appears on a desk in the Fordyce assembly room (figure 46). <u>References:</u> General furnishings #12 and 15



ASSEMBLY ROOM -- 302

Object	Source	Location	Documentation
302.34 FOUNTAIN PEN	Acquire	On desk	After baths and therapies, patrons passed the time writing letters (figure 46).
302.35 BOTTLE OF INK	Acquire		
302.36 BLOTTER	Acquire		
302.37 STEEL PEN			
302.38-43 MAGAZINES, six	Acquire	Four on center table, one each on an arm-chair and a rocking armchair	Patrons read magazines purchased by the bathhouse throughout its operation.  <u>Reference:</u> General furnishings #10
302.44-45 WASTE PAPER BASKETS, two, wicker	Acquire	One near each desk	Wastepaper baskets were required for disposal of used stationery.

LADIES' PARLOR -- 307 (Fig. 50)

Object	Source	Location	Documentation
307.1-3 WICKER ARMCHAIRS, three;	HOSP 2171, 2172, and 2174	Northwest, southwest, and southeast corners	The Fordyce management purchased some wicker furniture in 1915 and may have salvaged the seating furniture used in the ladies' parlor from the Palace Bath-house. Wicker furniture appears in figure 50, the Fordyce ladies' parlor. By the late the 1920s room 307 became the beauty parlor, and the management removed most of this furniture.  <u>References:</u> General furnishings #1 and 8
307.4-6 WICKER ROCKING ARMCHAIRS, three;	HOSP 2170, 2173, and acquire one to match	One in southwest corner, one near sink, one in northeast corner	
307.7 WICKER SETTEE, one, to match;	Acquire	South wall	
307.8 ROUND WICKER CENTER TABLE; and	Acquire	Center of room	
307.9-11 WICKER PLANT STANDS, three	Reproduce	Northwest, southwest, and southeast corners	
307.12 PLANT STAND, wicker or wooden	Acquire	In front of west window	
307.13 PLANT BASKET, wicker	Acquire	On plant stand	

# LADIES' PARLOR -- 307

	Object	Source	Location	Documentation
307.14-16	VASES, with imitation flowers, three	Acquire, with imitation flowers	One on center table, two on mantel	These items were installed in 1915 and were probably removed in late the 1920s. Figure 50 shows vases and palms in the Fordyce ladies' parlor.
307.17-20	POTTED PALMS, four, imitation	Reproduce	In plant stands	<u>Reference:</u> General furnishings #9
307.21-22	BOSTON FERNS, imitation, in CLAY POTS, two	Reproduce	On marble water cooler	
307.23	STATUETTE OF ANIMAL	Acquire	On marble water cooler	
307.24 307.25	KNABE GRAND PIANO, c.1914-15 PIANO BENCH	Acquire	In doorway to room 302	Purchased in 1915 for \$850.00 less discounts, the piano and bench probably moved to room 302 in the late 1920s. The piano and bench appear in figure 50.
				<u>References:</u> Ladies' parlor #1-14
307.26	BUST, female	Acquire	On piano	Installed in 1915, this bust (figure 50) probably moved to room 302 in the late 1920s.
307.27	FRAMED PICTURE	Acquire	Above fireplace	The ladies' parlor probably contained a picture since 1915. When the management converted room 307 to a beauty parlor in the late 1920s, they removed the picture. A framed picture hangs above the fireplace in the gentlemen's parlor in figure 51.

LADIES' PARLOR -- 307

Object	Source	Location	Documentation
307.28 MARBLE WATER COOLER	Reproduce	North wall	Original bathhouse furnishings included the sink and water cooler, which were probably removed in the 1950s. These items appear in figure 50 of the ladies' parlor.
307.29 SINK	Acquire from other bath-house	North wall	
307.30-32 MAGAZINES, three	Acquire	On center table	Patrons read magazines provided by the bathhouse throughout its operation.  <u>Reference:</u> General furnishings #10
307.33 GAS LOG	Acquire	In fireplace	Examination of the fireplace reveals that it was never used for burning coal or wood. Gas pipes leading to the fireplace clearly imply the use of a gas log.  <u>References:</u> Ladies' parlor #13, 14, and 16
307.34 WICKER WRITING DESK, one	HOSP 2163	Along east wall	The gentlemen had a writing desk in their parlor as seen in figure 51.
307.35 WICKER SIDE CHAIR, one	Acquire	Near desk	
307.36-38 INKWELL, BLOTTER, STEEL PEN, one each	Acquire	On desk	
307.39 WASTEPAPER BASKET, wicker, one	Acquire	Near desk	
307.40 STATIONERY	Reproduce	On desk	



GENTLEMEN'S PARLOR -- 338 (Fig. 51)

Object	Source	Location	Documentation
338.1 WICKER ROCKING ARMCHAIR	Acquire	North side of fire-place	Part of the wicker furniture purchased in 1915, this rocker (figure 51) may have been removed in the early 1930s when room 338 was converted to an office.  <u>Reference:</u> General furnishings #8
338.2 CARD TABLE, leather-topped, round, wooden	Acquire	Center of room	This card table (figure 51) was probably purchased in 1915. The date of its removal is unknown.
338.3 WICKER ARMCHAIRS, two	Acquire	On either side of leather-topped table	The Fordyce management salvaged these late 1890s armchairs (figure 51) from the Palace Bathhouse (figures 75 and 76) and probably removed them in the early 1930s.  <u>Reference:</u> General furnishings #1
338.4 VICTROLA	Acquire	North wall	From 1915 until the 1930s, the furnishings in the gentlemen's parlor included the victrola (figure 51). In the 1930s, the victrola possibly moved to the lobby.  <u>References:</u> Ladies' parlor #4 and 5
338.5-14 RECORDS, classical, ten	Acquire, select from list of music played at the Buckstaff if possible	In victrola cabinet	The Park Service only permitted classical music in the bathhouses.  <u>References:</u> Gentlemen's parlor #1 and 6

GENTLEMEN'S PARLOR -- 338

Object	Source	Location	Documentation
338.15 TABLE, small, wooden, splay-legged	Acquire	North wall	The Fordyce management salvaged this table from the Palace Bathhouse (figure 75) and placed it in room 338 when the Fordyce Bathhouse opened (figure 51). The date of its removal is unknown.
338.16-17 PALM, imitation, in tall BASKET or VASE	Acquire vase or basket with palm	On splay-legged table	Gentlemen's parlor furnishings installed in 1915 included plants and flowers (figure 51). The date of their removal is unknown.
338.18-20 PALMS in CLAY POTS, three, imitation palms	Acquire pots with palms	Two in wicker plant stands, one on marble water cooler	
338.21-23 VASES, three; two with imitation greens	Acquire, with synthetic greenery	Two with greenery on mantel, one on bottom shelf of splay-legged table	
338.24-25 WICKER PLANT STANDS, two	Acquire	Northeast and south-east corners	The Fordyce management purchased plant stands for the gentlemen's parlor in 1915 (figure 51) and possibly removed them in the 1930s.
Reference: General furnishings #8 and 9			

GENTLEMEN'S PARLOR -- 338

	Object	Source	Location	Documentation
338.26	FRAMED PORTRAIT OF SAMUEL FORDYCE	Reproduce	Over fire- place	The gentlemen's parlor contained an unidentifiable framed picture in 1915 (figure 51). Correspondence indicates that Neimeyer packed and shipped a framed oil portrait of Samuel W. Fordyce from room 338 in 1955.
				<u>References:</u> Men's parlor #10 and 11
338.27	WICKER WRITING DESK,	HOSP 2175	Northwest corner	The Fordyces acquired this wicker furniture in 1915 (figure 51) and possibly removed these pieces from the gentle- men's parlor in the 1930s.
338.28	WICKER SIDE CHAIR,	Acquire	In front of writing desk	<u>Reference:</u> General furnishings #8
338.29	ROUND WICKER TABLE, and	Acquire	West wall	
338.30-31	WICKER ARMCHAIRS, two	Acquire	Near wicker table, west wall	
338.32	BILLIARD TABLE;	Acquire	In doorway to rm. 302	In 1915 the <u>Sentinel-Record</u> states that the gentlemen's parlor contained a bil- liard table, which appears in figure 51.
338.33	SET OF BILLIARD BALLS;	Acquire	On billiard table	Invoices and expense accounts list bil- liard equipment purchases in 1916. The Fordyce management probably removed these furnishings from room 338 in the 1930s.
338.34	TRIANGULAR RACK;	Acquire	On billiard table	
338.35-36	CUE STICKS, two; and	Acquire	On billiard table	
338.37	CUE CHALK	HOSP 2251		
				<u>References:</u> Men's parlor #3, 6, and 7

GENTLEMEN'S PARLOR -- 338

Object		Source	Location	Documentation
338.38	MARBLE WATER COOLER	HOSP	As mounted on south wall	Original bathhouse furnishings installed during construction included the marble water cooler and sink (figure 51).
338.39	SINK	HOSP		
338.40-42	MAGAZINES, three	Acquire	On chair near fire-place	Patrons read magazines provided by the bathhouse management. Magazines appear in a photograph of the Roycroft Den in the Maurice Bathhouse (figure 120).
				<u>Reference:</u> General furnishings #10
338.43	NEWSPAPERS	Acquire	On edge of gameboard	Patrons commonly read newspapers in the public rooms of the bathhouses to pass the time. Figure 114 shows patrons reading newspapers at the Lamar, and figure 120 shows newspapers at the Maurice.
338.44	STATIONERY	Reproduce	On desk	Patrons often wrote letters on stationery provided by the bathhouse management.
338.45	STEEL PEN	Acquire		
338.46	BLOTTER	Acquire		
338.47	BOTTLE OF INK	Acquire		
338.48	WASTEPAPER BASKET, wicker, one	Acquire	Near desk	<u>References:</u> General furnishings #10 and 13
338.49	GAMEBOARD with pieces	Acquire	On wicker table	The gameboard was installed in 1915 (figure 51). The date of its removal is unknown.
338.50	CARDS	Acquire	On card table	Patrons played cards for amusement after their baths and therapy probably at the card table in figure 51.



GENTLEMEN'S PARLOR -- 338

Object	Source	Location	Documentation
338.51 SMOKING STAND	HOSP 2847	South side of fireplace near chair	Male patrons used the gentlemen's parlor as a smoking room and would have required this smoking paraphernalia.
338.52 ASHTRAY, two	Acquire	One on card table; one on center table	<u>Reference:</u> Gentlemen's parlor #2
338.53 MATCHES, two boxes	Acquire	One near each ashtray	
338.54 PIPE	Acquire	On card table near ashtray	
338.55 GAS LOG and piping	Acquire	In fireplace	Examination of the fireplace reveals that it was never used for burning coal or wood. Gas pipes leading to the fireplace in the ladies' parlor clearly imply the use of gas logs in the parlors.
			<u>Reference:</u> Gentlemen's parlor #2-4
338.56 SPITTON, brass	Acquire	Near card table	Spittoons were common furnishings in public rooms in the Fordyce and appear in photographs of the lobby (figs. 9 and 10).

BEAUTY PARLOR -- 308 (Figs. 52 - 56)

Object	Source	Location	Documentation
308.1 TABLE, long, wooden;	Acquire	East wall, south end	The Fordyce management installed these items in the beauty parlor in 1915 (figure 52) and probably moved many items to room 307 in the late 1920s.
308.2 MIRROR, wall-mounted;	HOSP, uncataloged	Above wooden table	
308.3 FLOOR LAMP;	Acquire	West wall, near manicure table	References: Beauty parlor #1, 4, 8, 9-11
308.4 DESK, white metal;	HOSP, uncataloged	West wall, north end	
308.5-6 ARMCHAIRS, white metal, two;	HOSP	One on each side of manicure table	In front of sink
308.7 ARMCHAIR, metal, swivel;	Acquire		
308.8 HAIR DRYER, on tripod stand;	Acquire	Near hair-dressing chair	Center of floor at south end of room
308.9 HAIRDRESSING CHAIR;	Acquire		
308.10-12 ELECTRIC FACIAL MASSAGE APPLIANCES, three;	Acquire	On glass-topped table	On long wooden table
308.13 HAND MIRROR;	Acquire		
308.14 BOX OF CURLERS;	Acquire	On long wooden table	On floor between swivel chair and sink
308.15 HEAD SUPPORT (for washing hair);	Acquire		

# BEAUTY PARLOR -- 308

	Object	Source	Location	Documentation
308.16	TABLE, glass-topped;	HOSP, uncataloged	West wall, near sink	The Fordyce management installed these items in the beauty parlor in 1915 (figure 52) and probably moved many items to room 307 in the late 1920s.
308.17	RUBBER HOSE AND NOZZLE;	Acquire	Attach to faucet	
308.18	and VANITY, two drawers, with mirror	Acquire	East wall, north end	
308.19-28	TOWELS, ten	Acquire	Nine in top drawer of vanity; one over arm of dark metal chair	These items are common to the operation of a beauty parlor and appear in a photograph of the Buckstaff beauty parlor (figure 122).  <u>References:</u> Beauty parlor #9 and 10
308.29-34	COMBS and BRUSHES, three each;	Acquire	On top of long wooden table	
308.35-38	Various hairdressing consumables, including SHAMPOO, BLEACH, HENNA, DYES;	Acquire	On shelf near sink	
308.39	MANICURE TOOLS;	Acquire	On metal desk	
308.40	SCISSORS; 2 pair	Acquire	On glass-topped table	
308.41	CURLING IRON;	Acquire	On long wooden table	
308.42	EYEBROW TWEEZERS; and	Acquire	On glass-topped table	
308.43	WASTEPAPER BASKET	HOSP 1057	Under sink	
308.44-45	APRONS, two	Acquire	One on hair-dressing chair, one on swivel chair	

BEAUTY PARLOR -- 308

	Object	Source	Location	Documentation
308.46	SHELF, marble with metal brackets	Reproduce	On west wall near sink	Physical evidence on west wall indicates presence of a shelf. Shelves were common in beauty parlors as seen figure 122, the Buckstaff beauty parlor.
308.47	SINK	HOSP	As mounted on west wall	The sink installed in this room appears to be original.



STATEROOM -- 314 (Figs. 57 and 58)

	Object	Source	Location	Documentation
314.1	ENAMELED METAL BED, one;	Acquire	Northwest corner, head against north wall	The Fordyce management purchased metal furniture in 1915 for use throughout the operation of the bathhouse. Figures 57 and 58 show metal furniture used in a Fordyce stateroom.  <u>References:</u> Stateroom #2, 3, and 5
314.2	DRESSER, three drawers, with mirror, metal, one;	Acquire	Southeast corner, back against south wall	
314.3	ROCKING ARMCHAIR, metal, one;	HOSP 796	East wall	
314.4	and COAT RACK, metal	HOSP 771	Northeast corner	
314.5	MATTRESS;	Acquire	On bed	Staterooms contained mattresses, sheets, blankets, and pillows for their patrons' comfort (figures 57 and 58).
314.6-7	SHEETS, two;	Acquire	On mattress	
314.8	BLANKET, one;	Acquire	On mattress	
314.9	PILLOW, one; and	Acquire	On bed	
314.10	PILLOWCASE, one	Acquire	On pillow	
314.11-12	WOMEN'S DRESSES, c.1920, one summer and one winter;	Acquire	On coat rack	Patrons who rented staterooms left their clothes and personal belongings in their rooms while they took the baths and therapy.  <u>Reference:</u> Stateroom #3
314.13-14	TEDDY and PETTICOAT, one each, c.1920, use for both summer and winter;	Acquire	On chair	
314.15-16	WOMEN'S STOCKINGS, c.1920, one summer pair and one winter pair;	Acquire	On chair	
314.16	WOMEN'S GIRDLE, with garters, c.1920, one;	Acquire	On floor near bed	
314.17-18	WOMEN'S SHOES, c.1920, one summer pair and one winter pair	Acquire	On dresser	
314.19	BRUSH and COMB SET	Acquire		

STATEROOM -- 314

	Object	Source	Location	Documentation
314.20-21	WOMEN'S GLOVES, c.1920, one pair summer and one pair winter	Acquire	On dresser	
314.22-23	WOMEN'S HANDBAGS, c.1920, one summer and one winter	Acquire	On dresser	
314.24-25	WOMEN'S HATS, c.1920, one summer and one winter	Acquire	On dresser	
			Change clothing for seasonal interpretation	

STATEROOM -- 317 (Figs. 57 and 58)

	Object	Source	Location	Documentation
317.1	ENAMELED METAL BED, one;	Acquire	Southeast corner, head against south wall	Staterooms contained metal furniture purchased in 1915 for use throughout operation of the bathhouse (figures 57 and 58).
317.2	DRESSER, three drawers, with mirror, metal, one;	Acquire	West wall	<u>References:</u> Stateroom #2, 3, and 5
317.3	ROCKING ARMCHAIR, metal; and	HOSP 797	South wall	
317.4	METAL COAT RACK	HOSP 772	Northeast corner	
317.5	MATTRESS;	Acquire	On bed	Staterooms contained mattresses, sheets, blankets, and pillows for their patrons' comfort (figures 57 and 58).
317.6-7	SHEETS, two;	Acquire	On mattress	
317.8	BLANKET, one;	Acquire	On mattress	
317.9	PILLOW, one; and	Acquire	On bed	
317.10	PILLOWCASE, one	Acquire	On pillow	

GYMNASIUM -- 321 (Figs. 59 - 62)

Object	Source	Location	Documentation
321.1 STALL BAR,	HOSP 676	West wall, south end	The Fordyce management installed these items in the gymnasium in 1915 (figures 59 and 60). Patrons used them until the bathhouse closed.
321.2 SLANTING BACKBOARD, and	HOSP 683	West wall, north end	
321.3 PARALLEL BARS	HOSP 682	Middle of floor, south end	
321.4-7 PULLEY WEIGHTS, four pair	HOSP 679 and 680; Acquire two from Lamar Bath-house	Two pair north wall, one pair near slant board, one pair opposite on east wall	The Fordyce management installed four pair in 1915 (figures 59 and 60). They later donated them to the Hot Springs Boys' Club in 1971. Two pair were purchased from the Boys' Club in 1979.
321.8-10 PUNCHING BAGS, three, with wall-mounted frames	HOSP (frames) Acquire (bags)	Two mounted on east wall, one mounted on west wall	The Fordyce management installed punching bags in the gymnasium in 1915 (figure 59). They donated them to the Hot Springs Boys' Club in 1971. Backboard ghosts of three punching bags remain on the east and west walls.  <u>References:</u> Gymnasium #6, 8, and 12
321.11 SPRINGBOARD	HOSP 681	On floor, east of parallel bars	The Fordyce management installed the springboard in 1915 (figure 59). The date of its removal is unknown, but it was reinstalled in 1976.  <u>References:</u> Gymnasium #6 and 8



GYMNASIUM -- 321

Object	Source	Location	Documentation
321.12	MEDICINE BALL HOSP 2865	North end, on floor	A medicine ball appears in a 1915 photograph of the Fordyce gymnasium (figure 59).
321.13	STOOL HOSP 1596	On floor, near east wall	Gymnasium equipment installed in 1915 included a stool and a scale (figure 59). The date of the stool's removal is unknown. The scale continued in use until the bathhouse closed.
321.14	SCALE HOSP, uncataloged	North wall	
321.15-16	TRAVELING RINGS, two sets of six each HOSP 684-690 Acquire six more rings, two hooks, and new ropes as required	Hang from hooks attached to pipes running north to south, six rings from each pipe, 8-10' apart, 6'6" from floor	Gymnasium equipment installed in 1915 included traveling rings (figure 59). Some rings and ropes remain in place; others were probably broken or removed after the bathhouse closed.  <u>Reference:</u> Gymnasium #6

GYMNASIUM -- 321

Object	Source	Location	Documentation
321.17-18 RINGS, two pair	Acquire four rings, one hook, and ropes as required	Hang both pair from center truss; each pair 18" apart, 5'6" from floor	The Fordyce management installed these items in the gymnasium in 1915 (figures 59 and 60) and probably removed them after the bathhouse closed.
321.19 ROPE LADDER	Acquire	Hang from truss, north end	
321.20-21 CLIMBING ROPES, two, 1" and 1½" diameters	Acquire	Hang one from truss, south end and one from middle truss	
321.22 HORIZONTAL BAR	Acquire	South wall, 8' from east wall	In 1915 the Fordyce management installed the horizontal bar in the gymnasium (figure 59) and in 1971 donated it to the Hot Springs Boys Club.  References: Gymnasium #6 and 42 (climbing bar?)
321.23 STRIKING DUMMIES, two	Acquire	South end, on floor	Records show a striking dummy purchased in 1915 (figure 59) and periodic repairs or replacements thereafter. The date of their removal is unknown.  References: Gymnasium #6 and 8

# GYMNASIUM -- 321

Object	Source	Location	Documentation
321.24 TRAPEZE	Acquire	Hang from last truss, north end	Gymnasium equipment installed in 1915 included the trapeze, which was probably removed after the bathhouse closed (figures 59 and 60).  <u>References:</u> Gymnasium #6 and 8
321.25-26 WRIST EXERCISERS, two	HOSP 677 and 678	Mount on east and west walls, north end	In 1915 the Fordyce management installed wrist exercisers (figure 59) and in 1971 donated them to the Hot Springs Boys Club. In 1979 they were purchased from the Boys Club.
321.27 EXERCISE STICKS AND RACK	HOSP 691; 884-898	Mount on north wall	Gymnasium equipment installed in 1915 included exercise sticks and racks, which were probably removed after the bathhouse closed (figure 59).
321.28 BOXING GLOVES	Acquire	On floor near punching bag, east wall	Patrons used boxing gloves in the gymnasium throughout the operation of the bathhouse (figures 61 and 62). New ones periodically replaced those that were worn out.  <u>Reference:</u> Gymnasium #12
321.29 WALL CLOCK	Acquire	East wall, above punching bag	Original gymnasium furnishings of 1915 included a wall clock (figure 59). A round, modern clock appears in a c.1934-39 photograph (figure 60). The date of its removal is unknown. In later years, the bathhouse management installed electric clocks on other walls.

GYMNASIUM -- 321

Object		Source	Location	Documentation
321.30	VAULTING HORSE	Acquire	On floor, north end	Gymnasium equipment installed in 1915 included the vaulting horse. The date of its removal is unknown.  <u>Reference:</u> Gymnasium #8
321.31-33	RACKS, three, with	HOSP 666, 675, and reproduce one	East wall	At least two racks were installed in 1915 as seen in figure 59. The ghost of third rack can be seen on the east wall under the window that is not shown in the photograph. The Fordyce management donated the dumbbells to the Hot Springs Boys Club in 1971, and the park purchased them from the Boys Club in 1979.  <u>Reference:</u> Gymnasium #42
321.34-35	INDIAN CLUBS and DUMBBELLS	HOSP 648-659 (clubs) 663-674 (dumbbells)		
321.36	SINK	HOSP	On north wall	Physical evidence indicates that this sink was an original fixture.
321.37	PAPER CUP DISPENSER	HOSP	On north wall near sink	Paper cups were needed to supply water to thirsty exercisers. A dispenser is in place on the north wall.
321.38	WASTEPAPER BASKET, wire	Acquire	Under sink	A wastepaper basket was required for used paper cups.

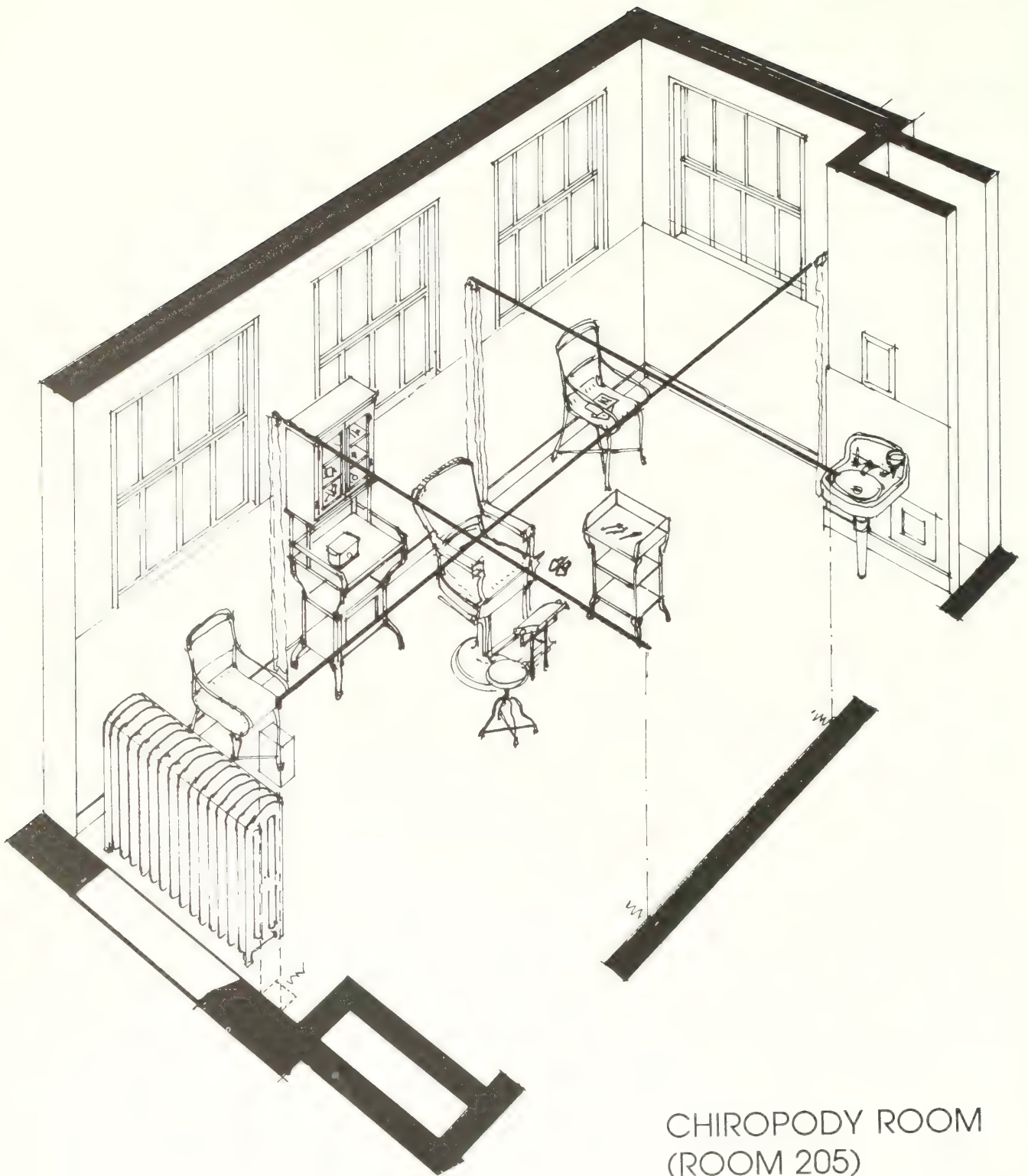


# HUBBARD TUB ROOM -- 306 (Figs. 63 - 71)

Object	Source	Location	Documentation
306.1 METAL ARMCHAIR	HOSP	Southeast corner	The Fordyce management purchased metal furniture in 1915. Room 306 contained an armchair while the bathhouse operated the Hubbard Tub (from 1939 to 1942). A metal armchair appears in the background of figures 70 and 71.
306.2 BATHROBE, c.1940s 306.3 BATH SLIPPERS, c.1940s	Acquire HOSP	On chair On floor near chair	Patrons commonly used bathrobes and slippers in bathhouses. A bathrobe hangs over the metal armchair in figure 70.
306.4 RUBBER AIR PILLOW	Acquire	On plinth in tub	The Fordyce management purchased an air pillow probably in 1939 for use in the Hubbard Tub (1939-42). Figures 63, 65, 68, and 69 show the air pillow in use.
306.5 HUBBARD TUB and PIPING	HOSP	As mounted in center of room. Piping on south and east walls	In 1939 the Fordyce management installed the Hubbard Tub (figures 63-71).  References: Library/Mercury Rubbing Room/ Hubbard Tub Room #16, 17, 19-26, and 38-41
306.6 STRETCHER and ASSEMBLY	HOSP; reproduce some pieces	Runs on over- head track through rms. 300, 306, and 304	The Hubbard tub room contained a stretcher and assembly in 1939 (figures 63-65).  References: Library/Mercury Rubbing Room/ Hubbard Tub Room #21 and 23
306.7-8 TOWELS, white, two	Acquire	One on chair One over side of tub	Towels were commonly used in many areas of the bathhouse.

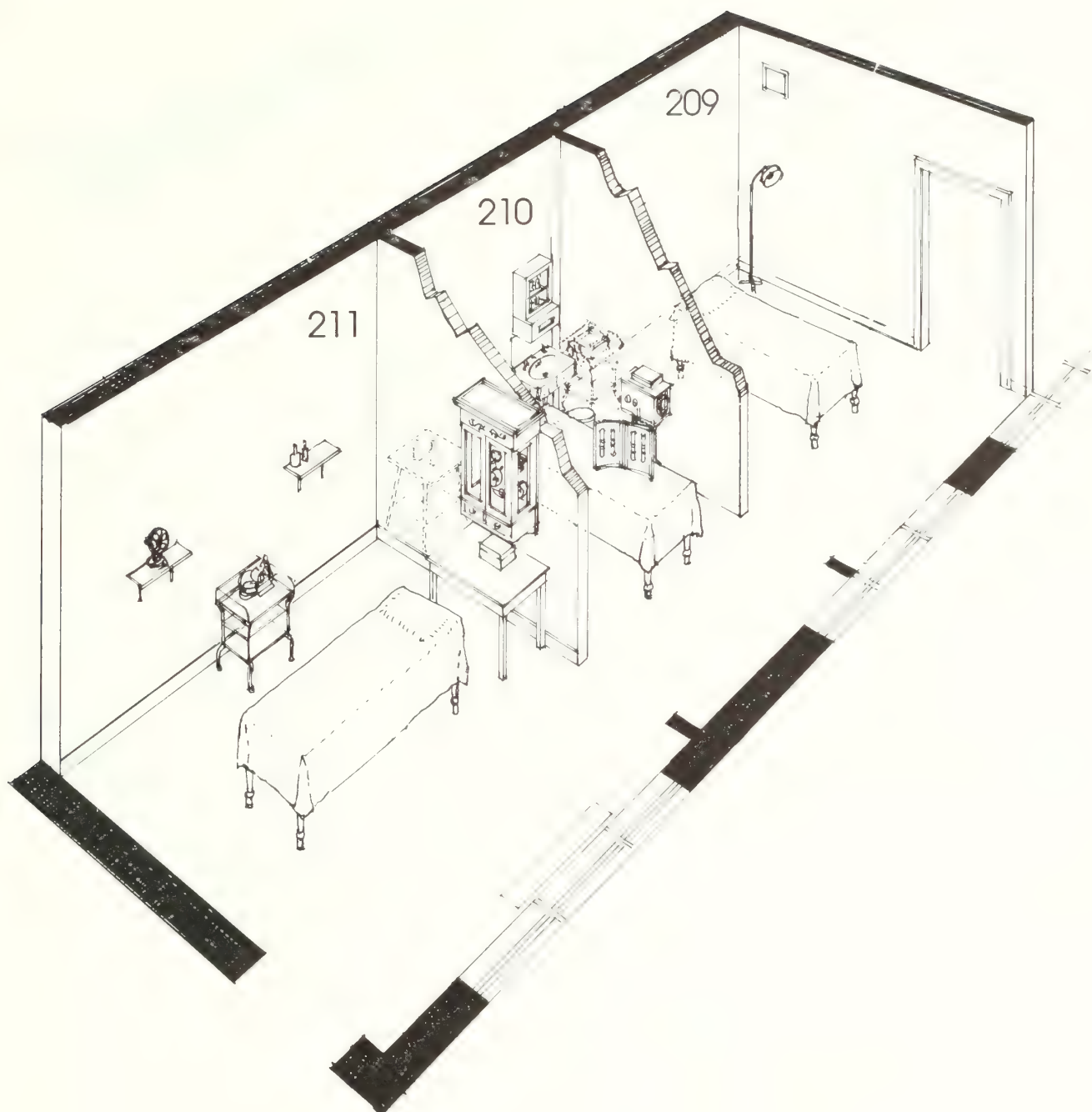


## WORKING DRAWINGS

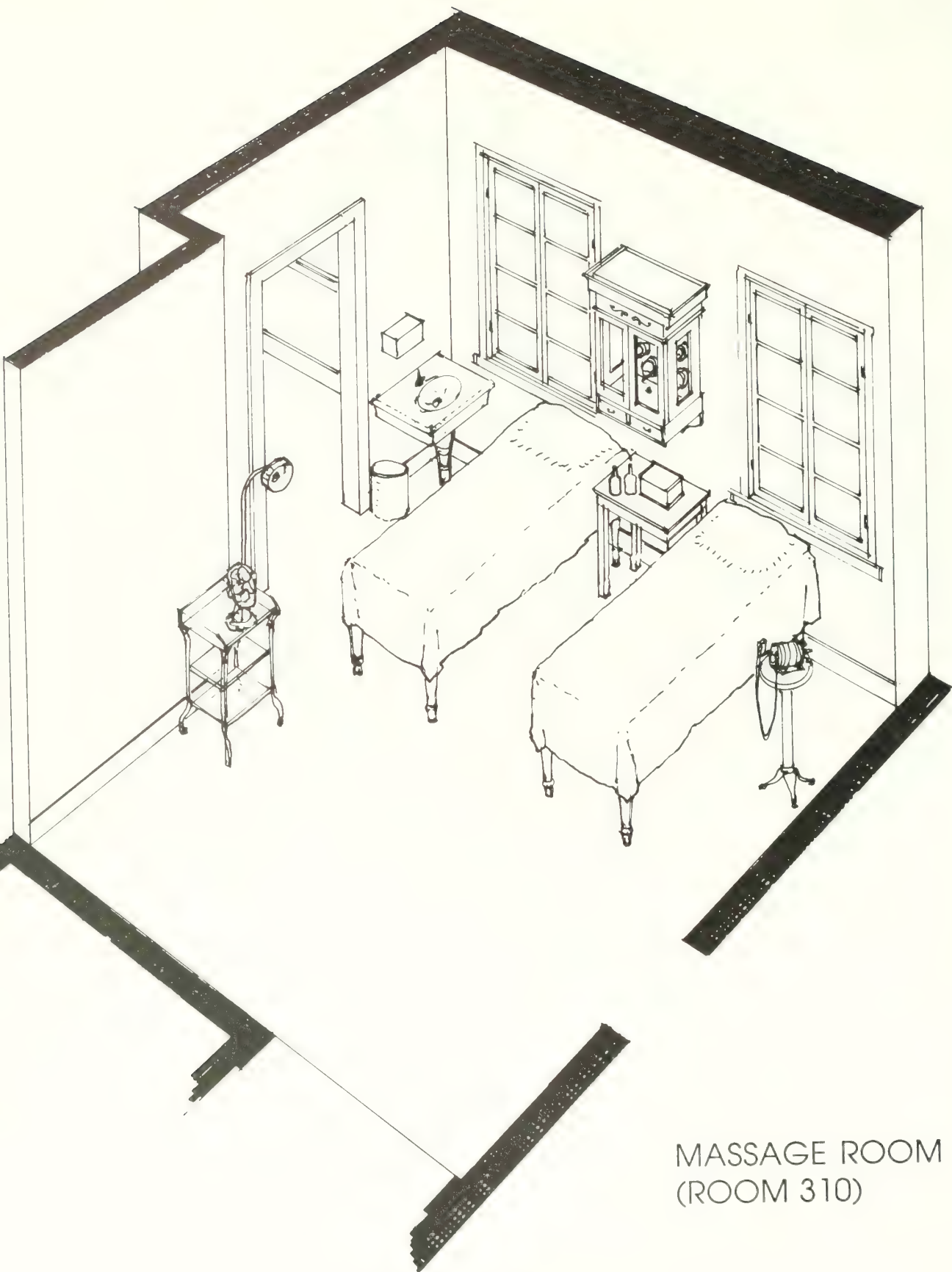


CHIROPODY ROOM  
(ROOM 205)

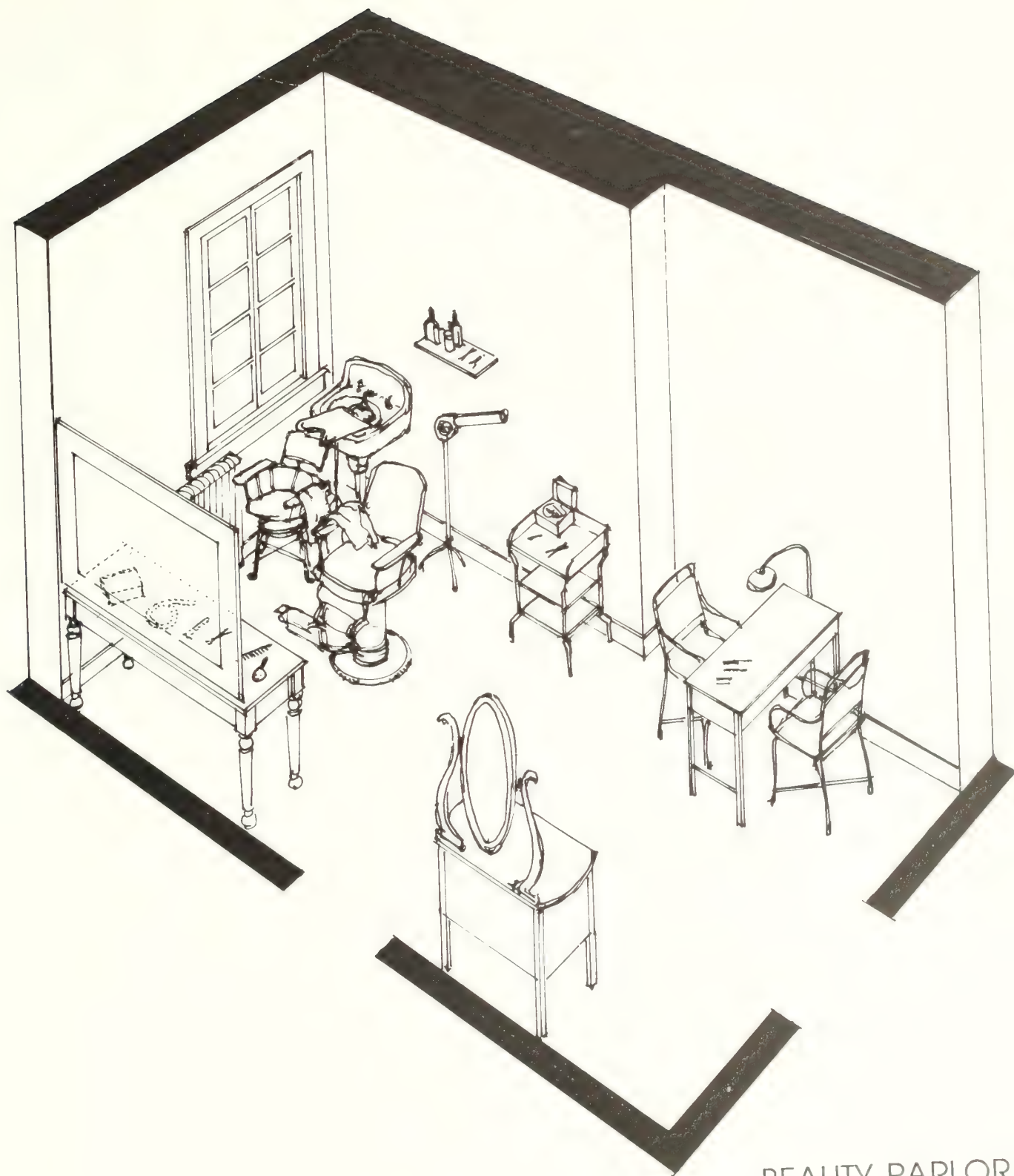




MASSAGE ROOMS  
(ROOMS 209, 210, 211)



MASSAGE ROOM  
(ROOM 310)



BEAUTY PARLOR  
(ROOM 308)



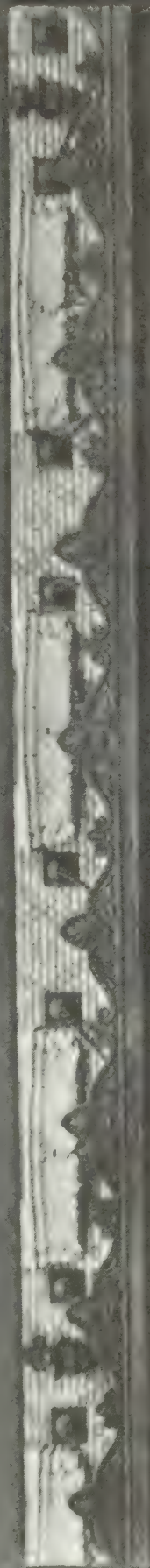


## ILLUSTRATIONS

## FORDYCE BATHHOUSE

Figure 1. Postcard picturing the staff of the Fordyce Bathhouse assembled on the front porch, c.1915-23. Note the metal and glass globe light fixtures on the wall on either side of the door, as well as the tripartite lamp posts.

Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.



# FORDYCE BATH HOUSE



YOURS FOR GOOD HEALTH  
FORDYCE BATHS  
JNO. F. MANIER, MANAGER  
HOT SPRINGS NATIONAL PARK.

Figure 2. Exterior of Fordyce, floodlit. The following text accompanied the photograph:

Flood Lighting of Famous  
Baths

The photographs shown herewith are reproduced through the kindness of Mr. S.E. Dillon of the Citizens Electric Company, Hot Springs, Arkansas. They illustrate the Maurice and Fordyce bath houses on the Government Reservation in that city. Each building front is lighted from across the street, by three G-E Form L-1 flood lighting projectors, each equipped with a 500-watt EDISON MAZDA C flood lighting lamp. They illustrate very clearly the beautiful effects that can be produced by this popular method of illumination. In no other way can the details of an artistic building be brought out as effectively.

"The Edison Building," n.d. (probably c.1916), Hudgins Scrapbook, Item 3, p. 92. Courtesy of the Special Collections Department, University of Arkansas Library.



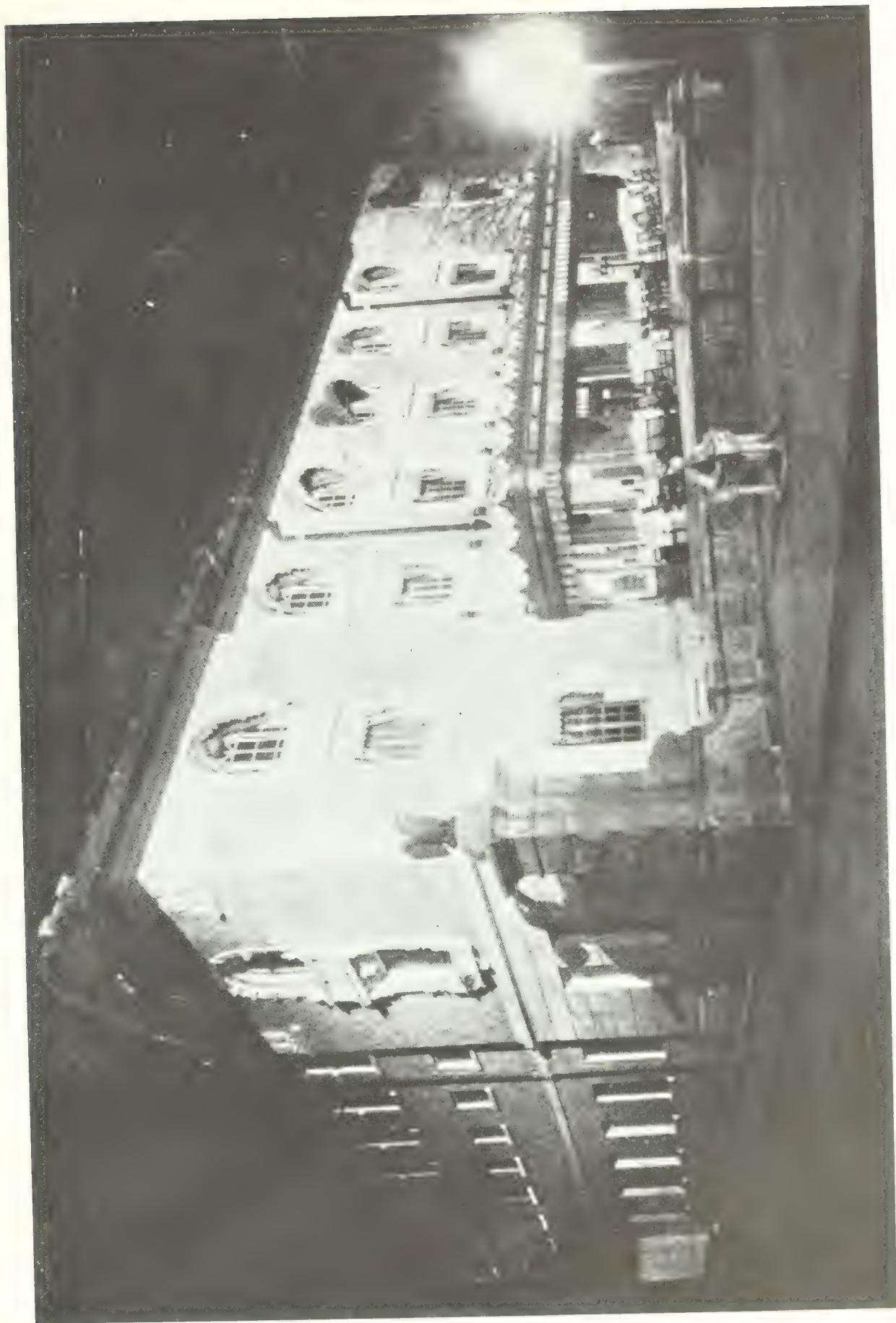


Figure 3. Postcard of bathhouse row showing exterior of Fordyce Bathhouse, c.1922. Two rows of seating furniture can be seen on the porch. The lighter shade of the seat and back may indicate that these areas were left a natural cane color, while the wood was painted a dark color.

Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.



Figure 4. Postcard of the exterior of the Fordyce Bathhouse, after 1933.  
By the time this photograph was taken, the two tripartite lamp  
posts had been replaced with flagpoles.

Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.





Figure 5. Exterior of the Fordyce Bathhouse, c.1930s. The original porch furniture had been replaced with cypress chairs by the 1930s.

Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.



Figure 6. Exterior of the Fordyce Bathhouse. The cypress chairs were still in use in the 1940s.

"Life Begins Again at the Fordyce," c.1940s. Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.



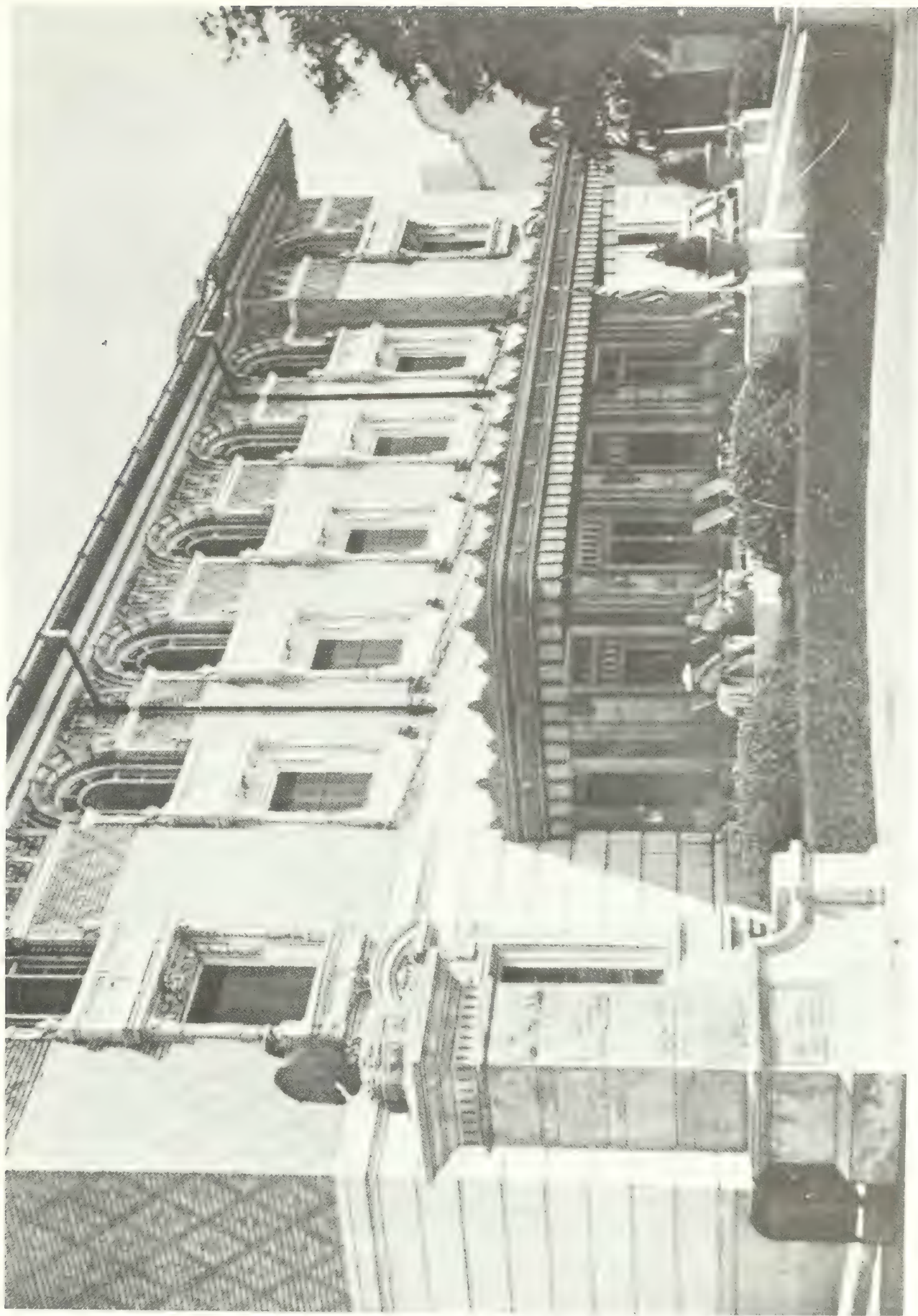


Figure 7. Postcard of exterior of Fordyce Bathhouse, probably 1950s. The new porch furniture purchased in 1955 may be the "womb chairs" seen in this photograph. The chairs were probably made of wicker, plastic, or vinyl with metal legs. The two blue jars or vases given to the Neimeyers in 1965 can also be seen in this photograph.

Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.





Figure 8. The bowling alleys in the basement of the Fordyce Bathhouse.  
The tubular metal furniture seen in this photograph is probably the  
same white enameled furniture used in the pack and cooling rooms.

"Life Begins Again at the Fordyce," c.1940s, p. 7. Courtesy of Hot Springs  
National Park.





*Bowling*

Figure 9. Drawing of fountain at north end of lobby, Fordyce Bathhouse. The lavish use of plants, vases, and wicker characterized the spaces in the Fordyce Bathhouse not directly connected with bathing or therapy.

"Fordyce Bath House," 1915, p. 3. Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.





Figure 10. Lobby of the Fordyce Bathhouse.

"Fordyce Bath House," 1915, p. 12. Virtually the same photograph appears in "Maintaining a Standard," c.1916, p. 4; "Health Awaits You at the Fordyce Baths," c.1925-30, p. 17; and Cutter's Guide to Hot Springs, 1916, p. 22. Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.



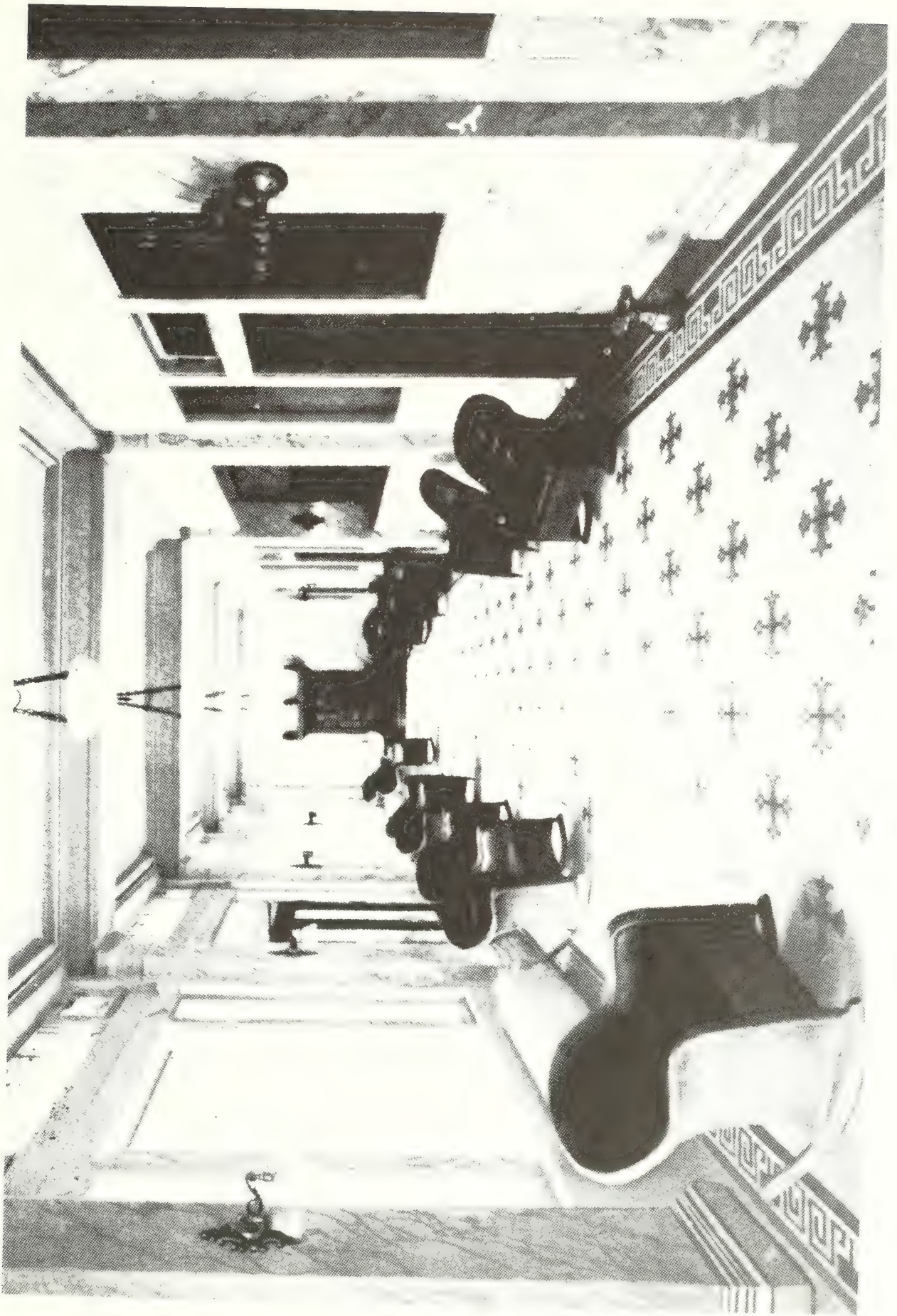


Figure 11. South end of lobby with fountain, Fordyce Bathhouse.

"Health Awaits You at the Fordyce Baths," c.1925-30, pp. 17-18.  
Courtesy of Edward Fordyce (booklet has since been transferred to Hot  
Springs National Park).



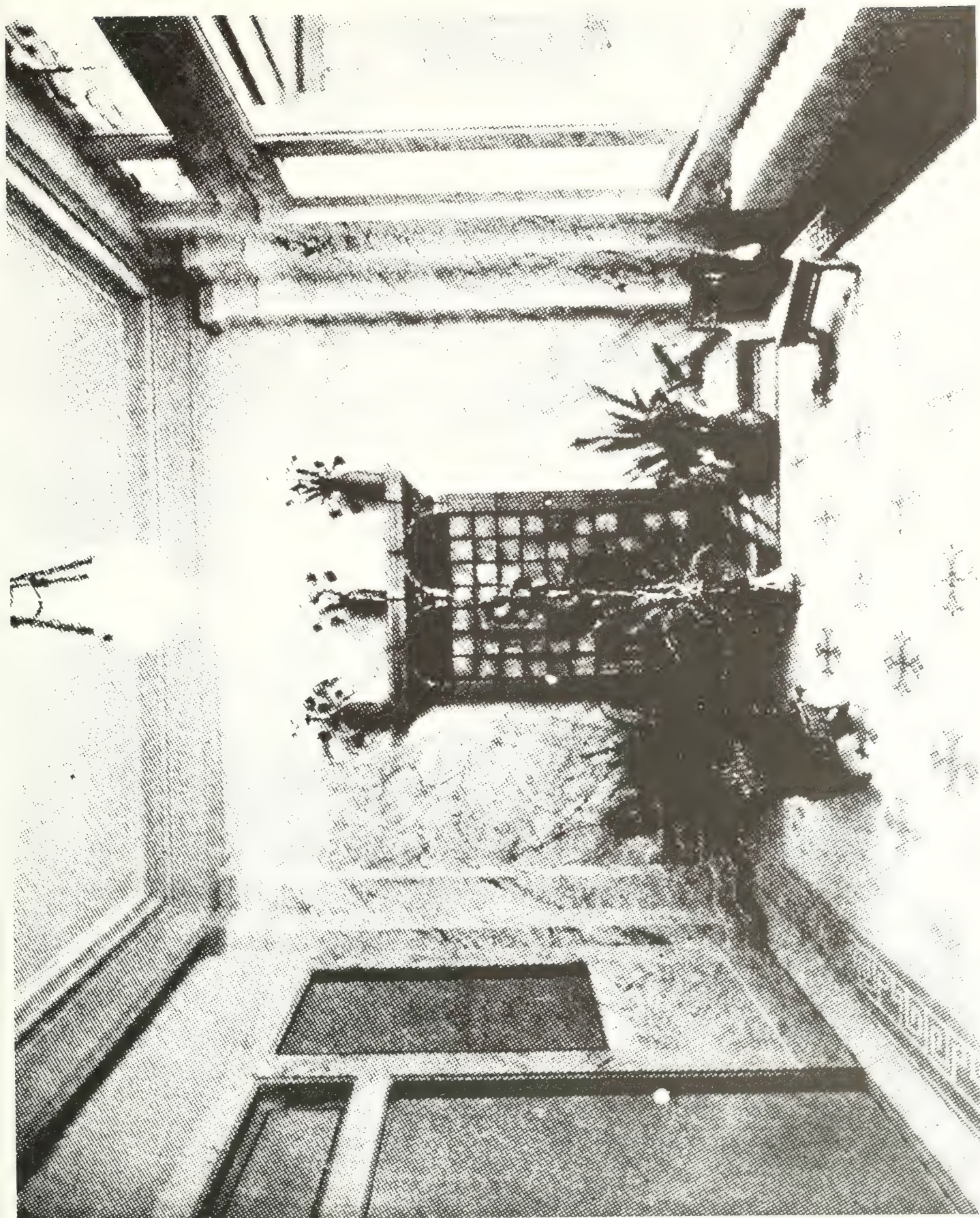


Figure 12. Fountain at north end of lobby.

"The Fordyce Baths," c.1940s, p. 2. Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.



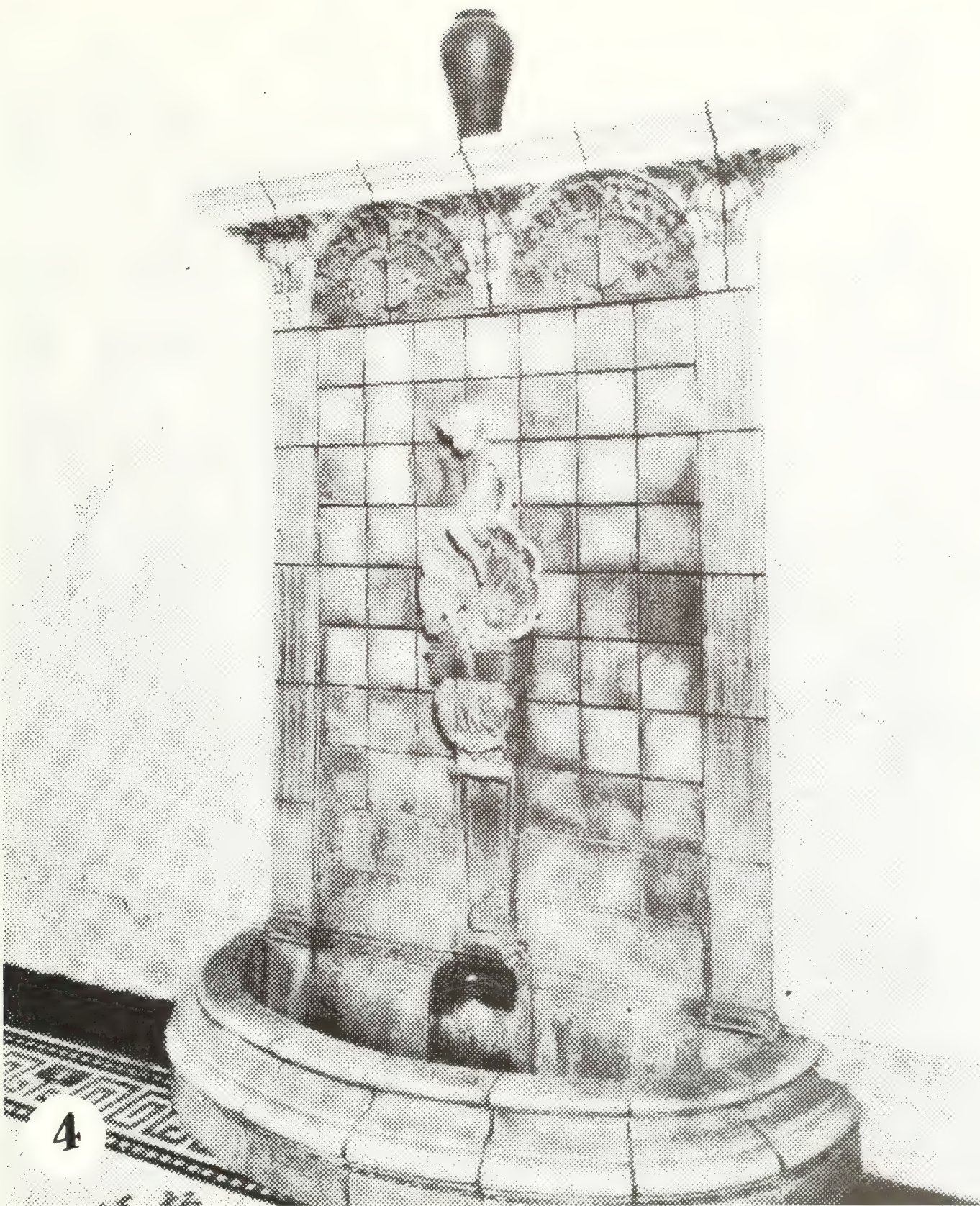


Figure 13.      Diagram of lobby furniture placement in the 1950s.

Drawn by John R. Fordyce, III, August 24, 1986.

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Figure 14. Fountain, south end of lobby, Fordyce Bathhouse, before  
1980.

Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.





Figure 15. Clerk's desk in lobby, Fordyce Bathhouse. The half door on the left leads to the coat check and the half door on the right leads to the manager's office. The potted plants must have been placed on the half doors for the photograph, since those two areas could not have functioned as shown.

"Fordyce Bath House," 1915, p. 12. Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.

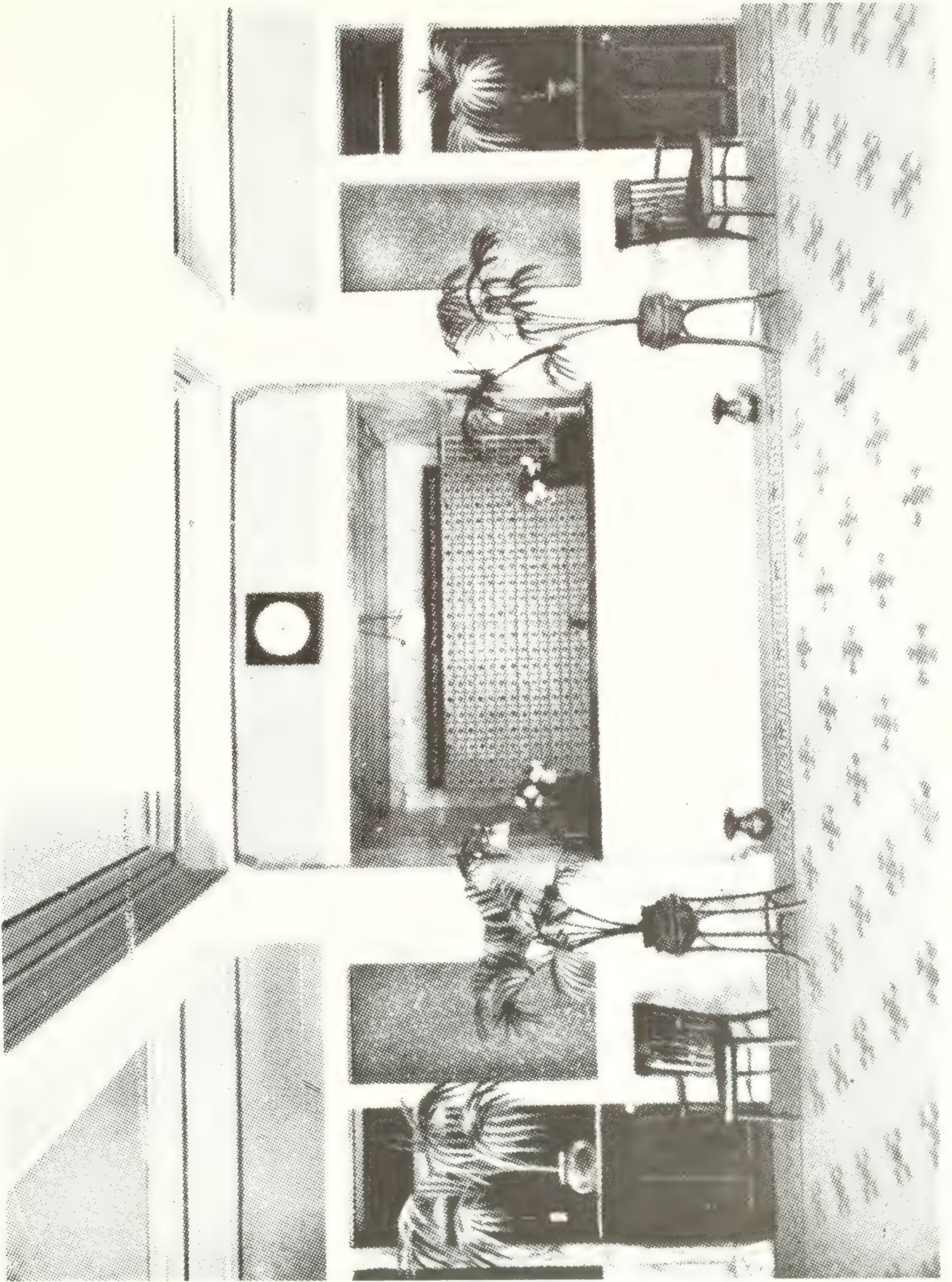


Figure 16. "Main Lobby and Registration Desk," Fordyce Bathhouse. The chairs pictured here originally came from the ladies' parlor and the assembly room as well as the lobby. The hanging light fixtures had not yet been replaced with fluorescent lights.

"Fordyce Baths," c.1934-1939, p. 2. Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.

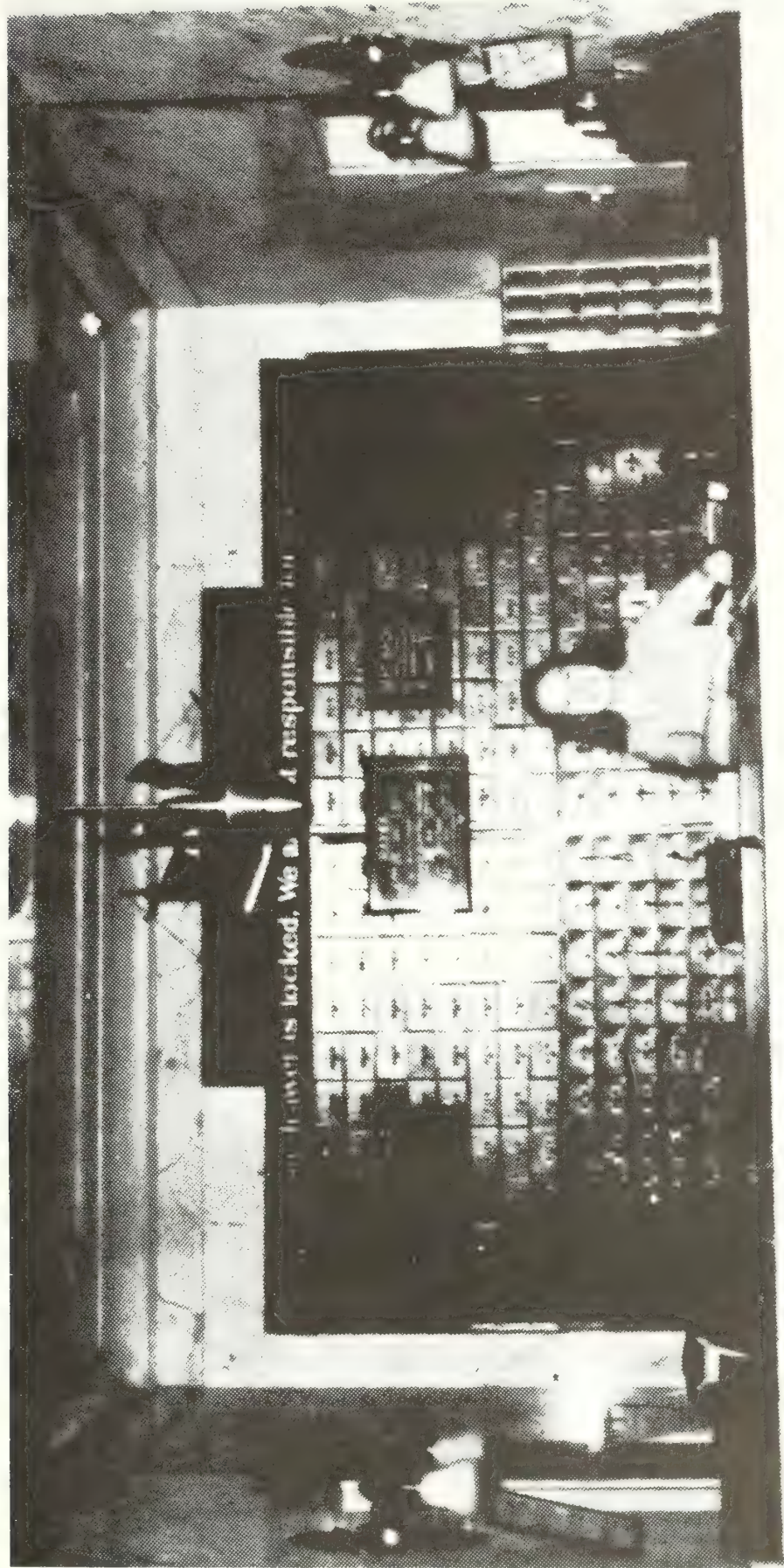




Figure 17. "Registration Desk in the Lobby," Fordyce Bathhouse. The hanging light fixture has been replaced with a "modern" metal fixture.

"The Fordyce Baths," c.1940s. Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.





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Figure 18. Men's bath hall in the Fordyce Bathhouse. This early photograph was taken in 1915 before the de Soto fountain was installed.

"Fordyce Bath House," 1915, p. 12. The same photograph appears in "Maintaining a Standard," c.1916, p. 7. Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.



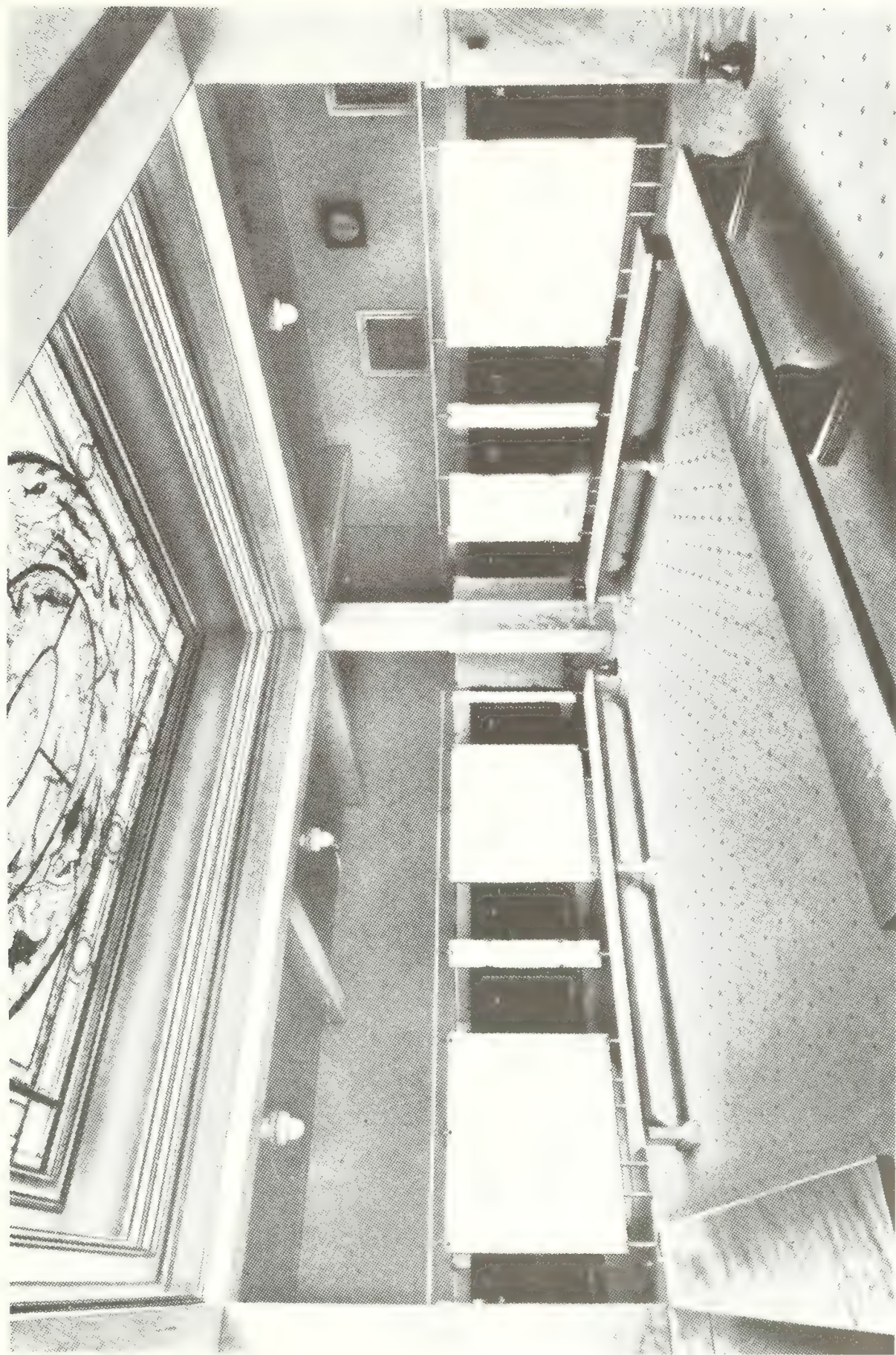


Figure 19. Men's bath hall in the Fordyce Bathhouse.

Cutter's Guide to Hot Springs, 1916, p. 23. Also in "Health Awaits You at the Fordyce Baths," c.1925-30, pp. 11-12. Courtesy of the Special Collections Department, University of Arkansas Library.





Figure 20. "De Soto Fountain in Bath Hall," Fordyce Bathhouse.

"Fordyce Baths," c.1934-1939, p. 2. Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.



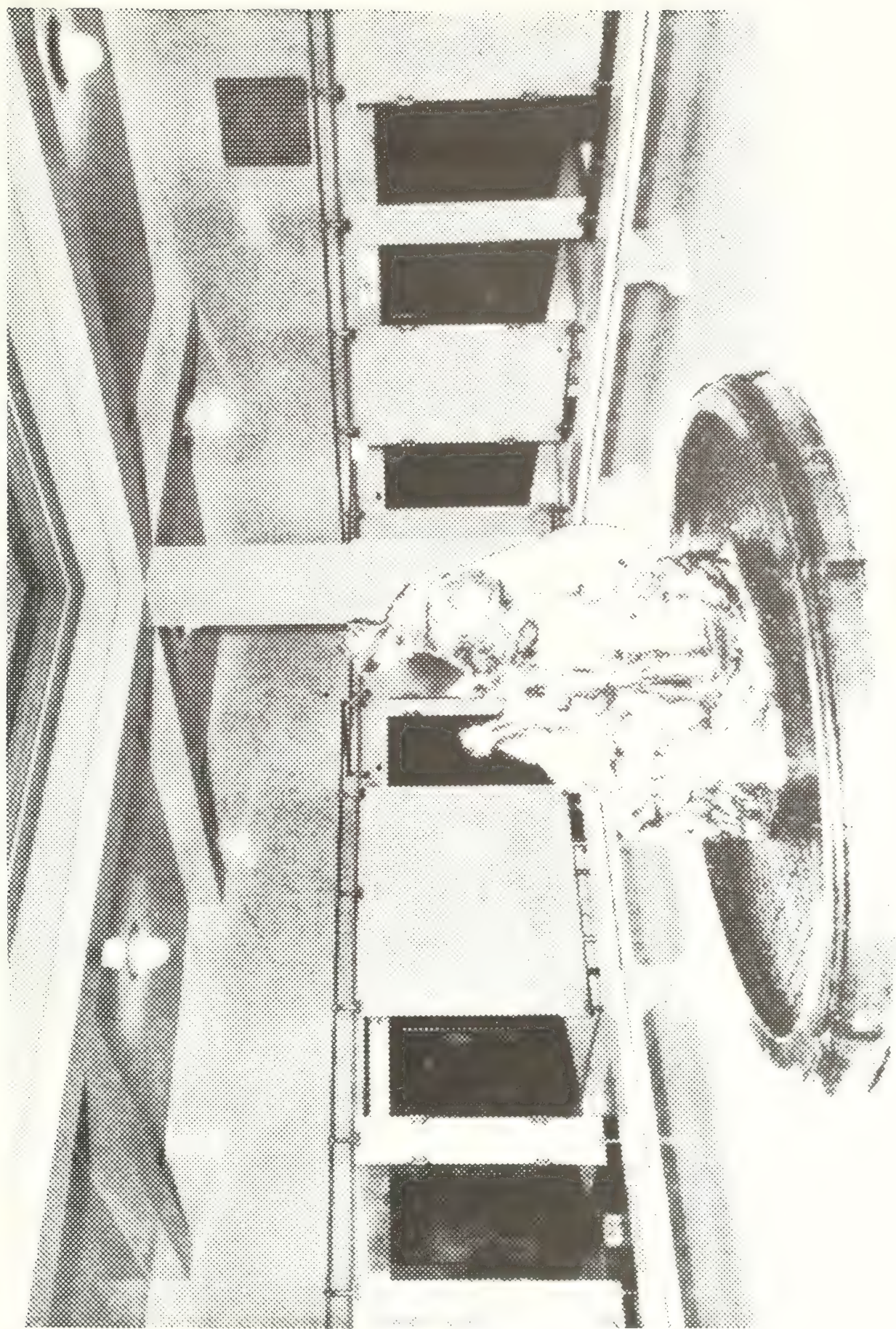


Figure 21. "Up-to-date Seitz Bath Facilities," Fordyce Bathhouse.  
This photograph shows the sitz bath installation in the northeast corner of the men's bath hall, proving that these sitz baths were in place at least by the late 1930s.

"Fordyce Baths," c.1934-1939, p. 3. Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.



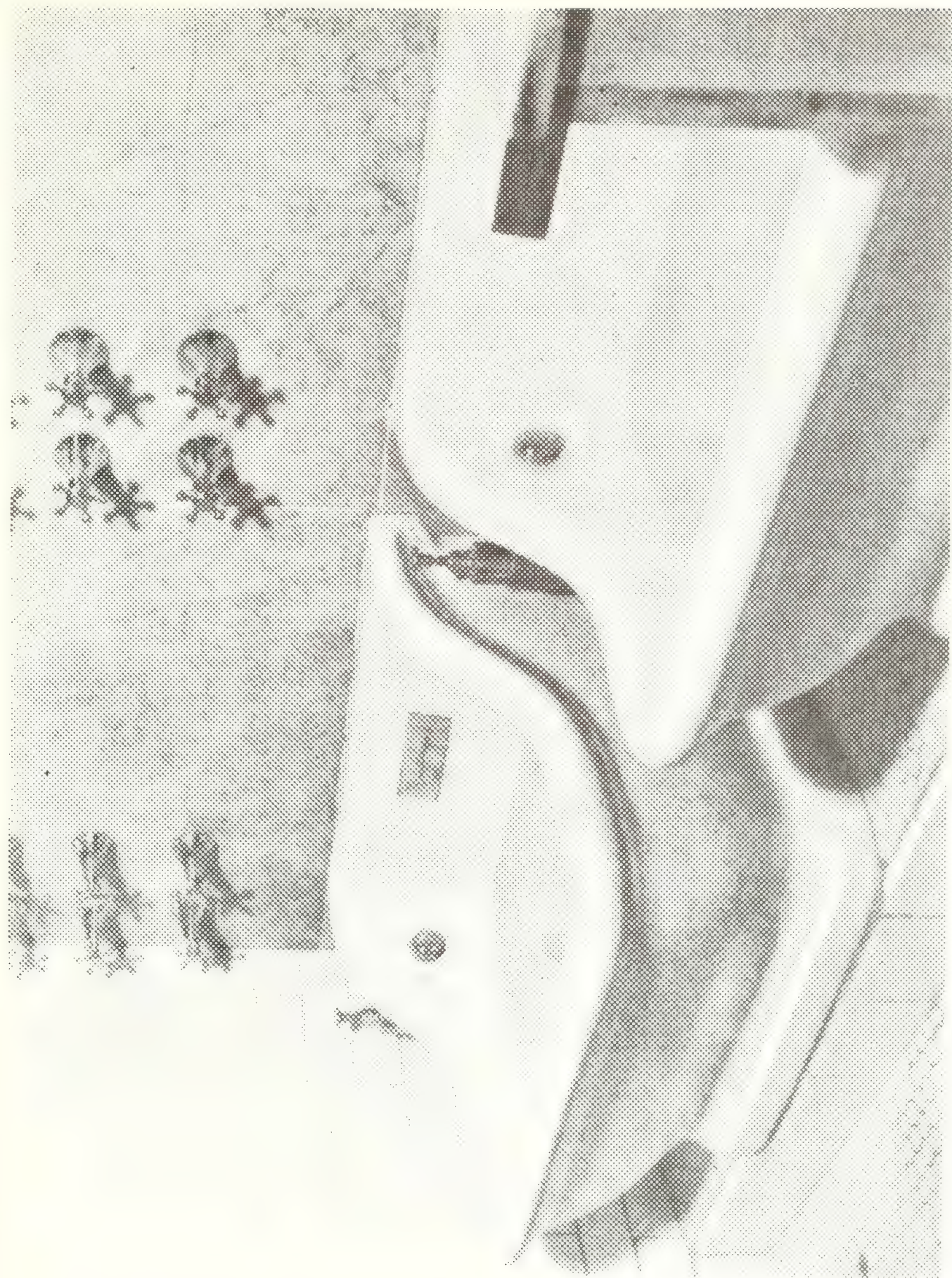


Figure 22. De Soto fountain in the men's bath hall, Fordyce Bathhouse.

"The Fordyce Baths," c.1940s, p. 2. Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.



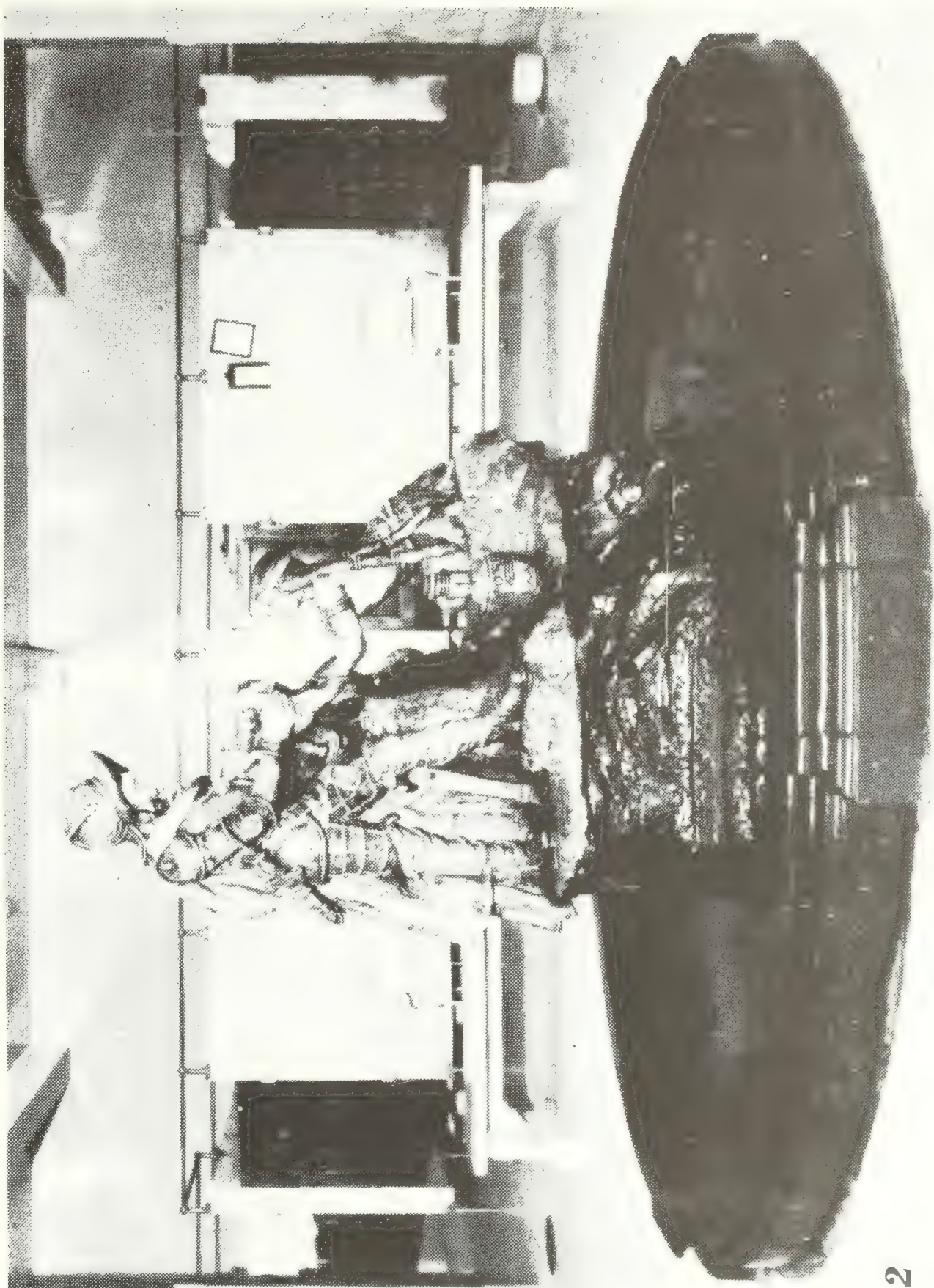


Figure 23. Men's bath hall in the Fordyce Bathhouse. The caption states that "no spa of ancient Rome had finer baths than these."

"We're on our way to...Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas," c.1940s. Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.

*No spa of ancient Rome had finer baths than these.*



Figure 24. Men's bath hall, Fordyce Bathhouse. Note the towels and sheets flung over the bath stall partitions and the working attire of the bath attendants.

"Hot Springs," Holiday, January 1951, pp. 38-39. Courtesy of the Special Collections Department, University of Arkansas Library.





View of old spa is a courtyard resort built on sun.

Figure 25. Tub bath in the ladies' bath hall, Fordyce Bathhouse. The caption states that the "first step is the hot tub bath when taking the regular course of baths. Every attendant is under government supervision and has passed government requirements. While in the tub the patient is massaged to increase circulation and stimulate secretion of the skin."

The bath mitt was usually made of loofah with a cloth backing. Attendant's fees at the Fordyce were included in the price of the bath. The shiny object on the rail at the back may be a paper cup holder. The bather was encouraged to drink several cups of hot mineral water while in the bath, both to replace the water lost from the body through perspiration and to "bathe" internally.

"Life Begins Again at the Fordyce," c.1940s, p. 3. Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.



Figure 26. Sitz bath in the ladies' bath hall. The caption includes:  
"The Sitz bath is part of the modern Fordyce equipment. This bath  
is indicated in infectious and benign hypertrophy of the prostate  
and in chronic rectal and genitourinary diseases."

"Life Begins Again at the Fordyce," c.1940s, p. 3. Courtesy of Hot  
Springs National Park.





Figure 27. Steam cabinet in ladies' bath hall, Fordyce Bathhouse.  
The caption indicates that "the vapor cabinet is also part of the standard bath procedure. It is used primarily to stimulate skin secretions."

"Life Begins Again at the Fordyce," c.1940s, p. 3. Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.



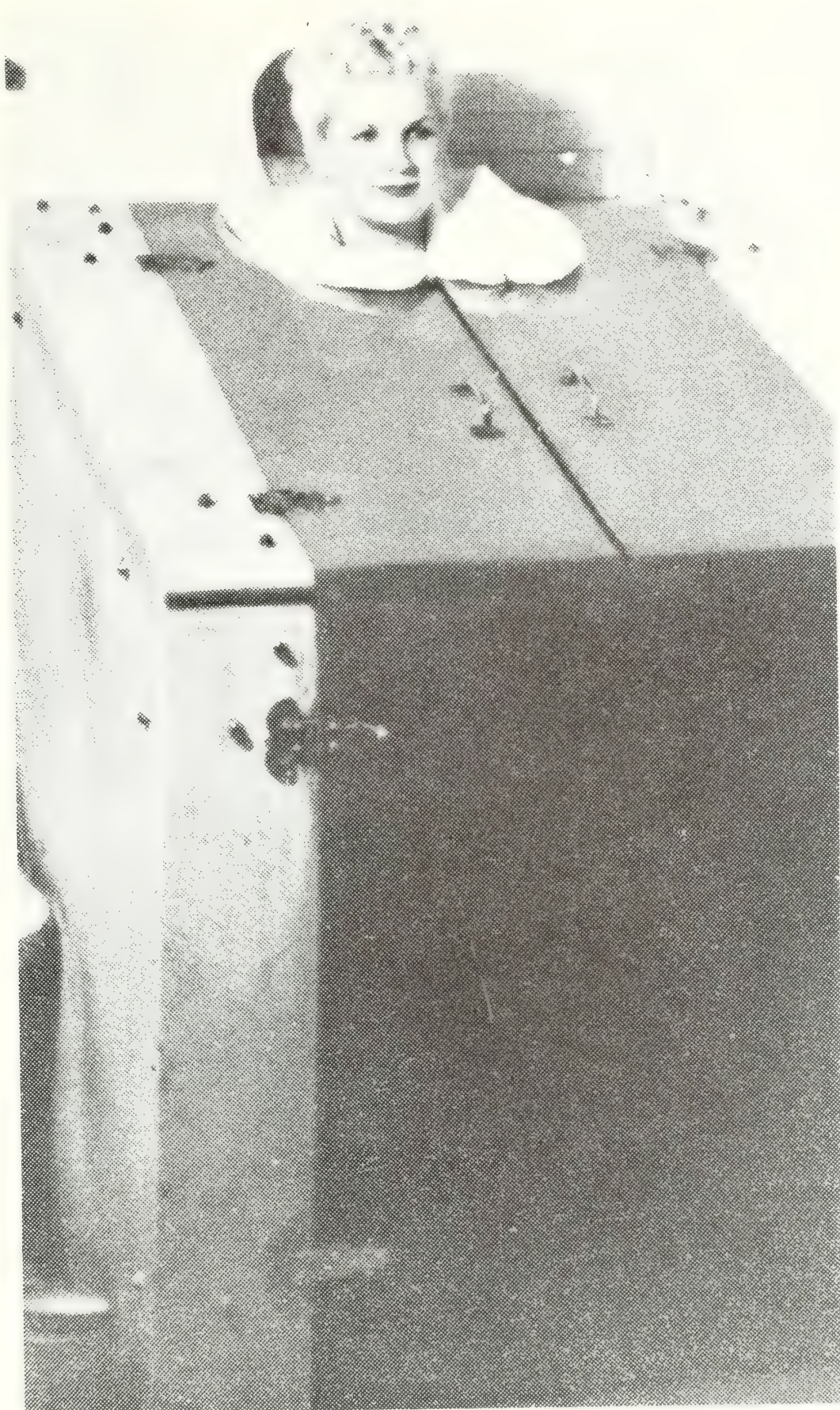


Figure 28. Hydrotherapy department, Fordyce Bathhouse. In the left foreground of this photograph is the tub for hydroelectric baths. The equipment that provides the current for these baths is sitting on the shelf mounted on the wall above the tub. In the background on the left is an enameled metal table called a "porcelain slab" and used for salt glow treatments and douches. Barely visible above the table (and behind the electric bath apparatus) are hoses for administering douches and irrigations. To the right of the door at the back is a frigid cabinet made of marble and metal. Next to the frigid cabinet is the electric light bath cabinet probably equipped with incandescent bulbs. The large marble cabinet on the right is the Scotch douche table. The text from p. 14 of "Health Awaits You at the Fordyce Baths" indicates that the salt glow table, frigid cabinet, and electric light bath were probably still in place in the hydrotherapy room in 1927. "A feature of interest is the hydro-therapeutic room nearby, its equipment including sun-ray cabinets, devices for sprays, douches, sitz baths, electric baths and the like."

"Fordyce Bath House," 1915, p. 14. Also in "Maintaining a Standard," c.1916, p. 3; "Health Awaits You at the Fordyce Baths," c.1925-30, p. 11; and "Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas: The Nation's Health Resort," 1927. Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.



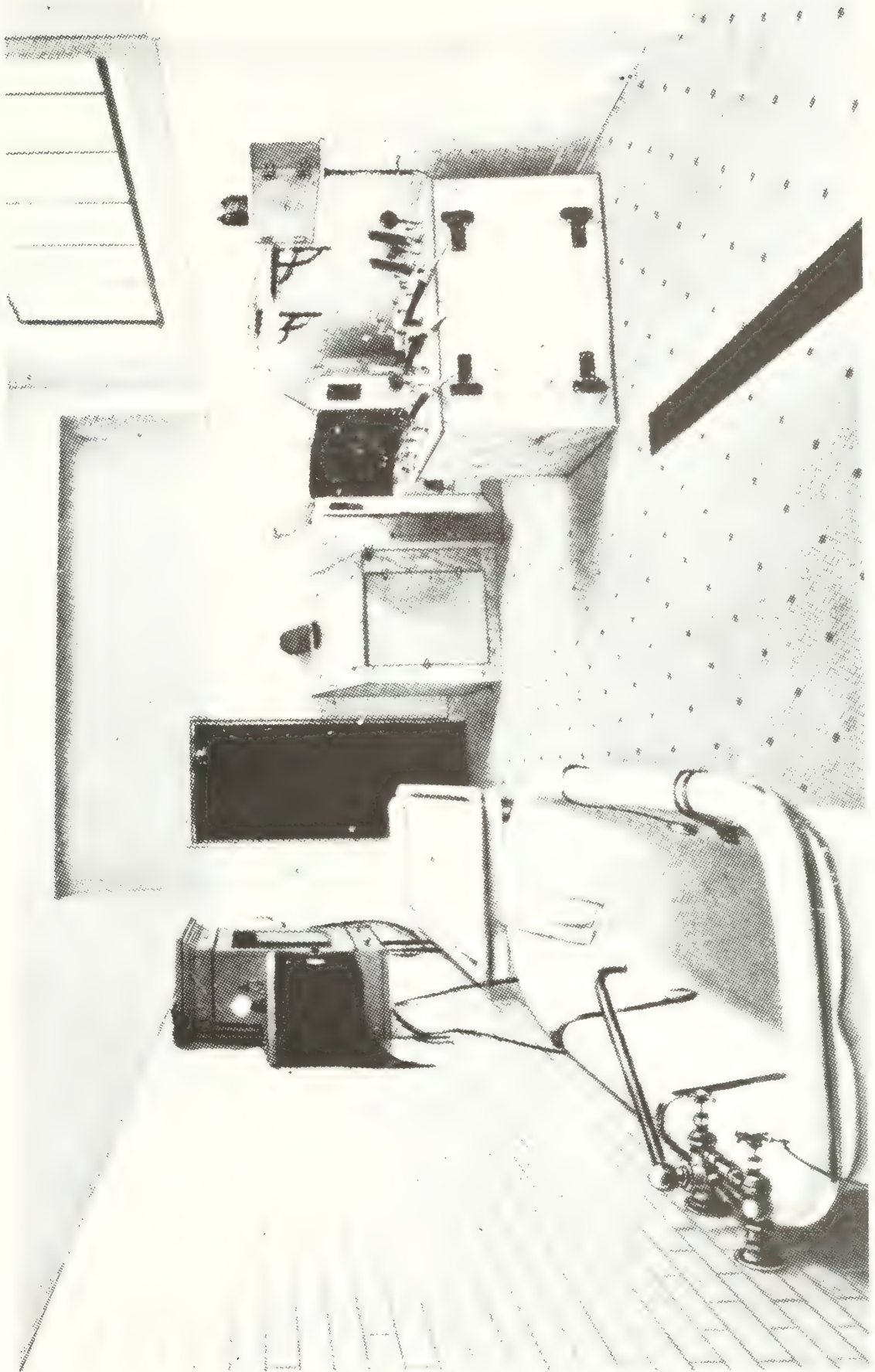


Figure 29. A closer view of the hydroelectric tub and the table for salt glow and douches. From this angle one can see the pipe leading from the table to a drain in the floor. Note the folded towel used for a pillow.

"Fordyce Bath House," 1915, p. 13. Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.

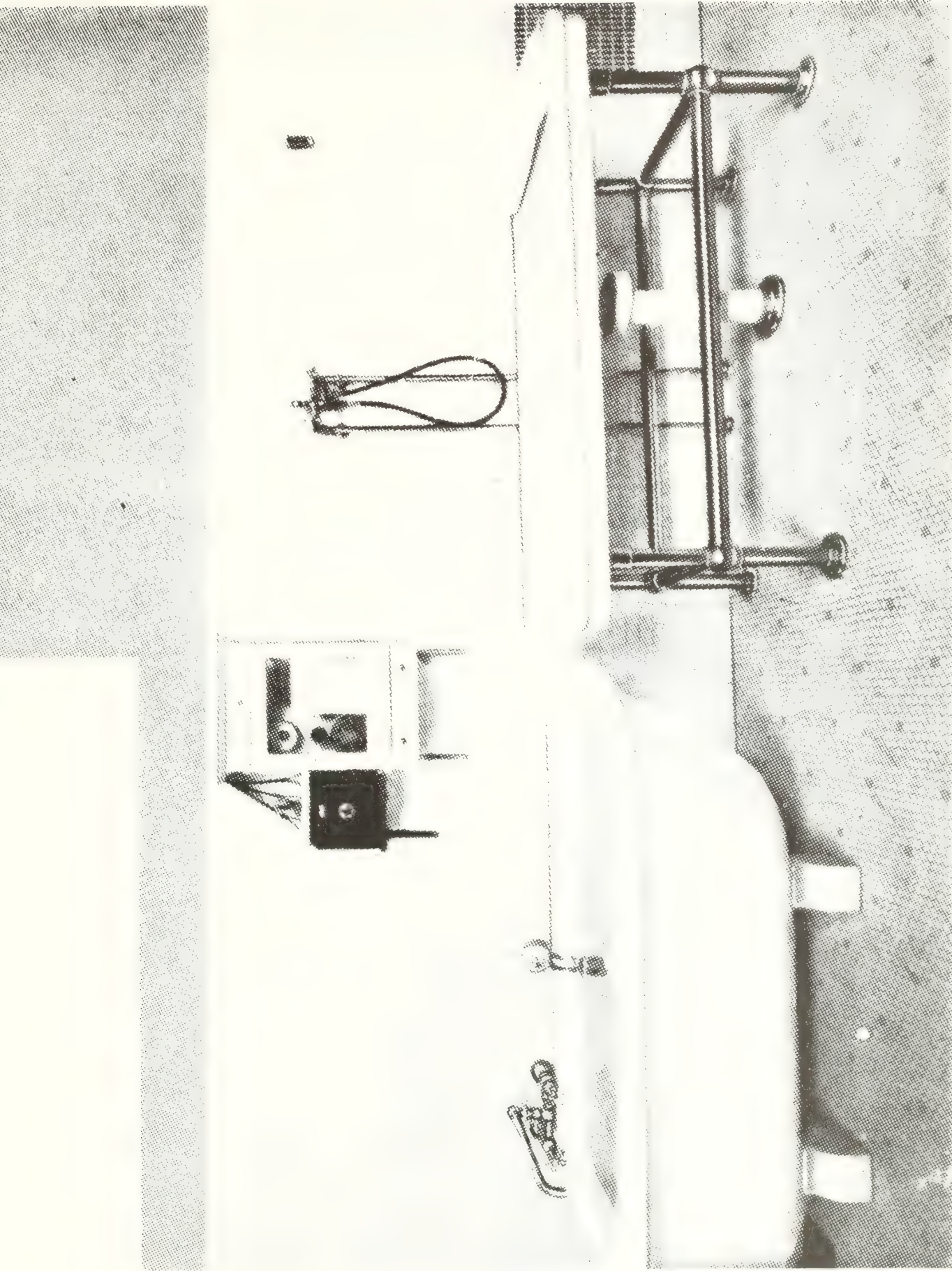


Figure 30. Man receiving spinal douche.

Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.





Figure 31. "Modern 'Head-Out' Vapor Equipment," steam cabinet room, Fordyce Bathhouse. The fourth steam cabinet (far right) had already been converted into a sitz bath by the time this photograph was taken.

"Fordyce Baths," c.1934-1939, p. 3. Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.



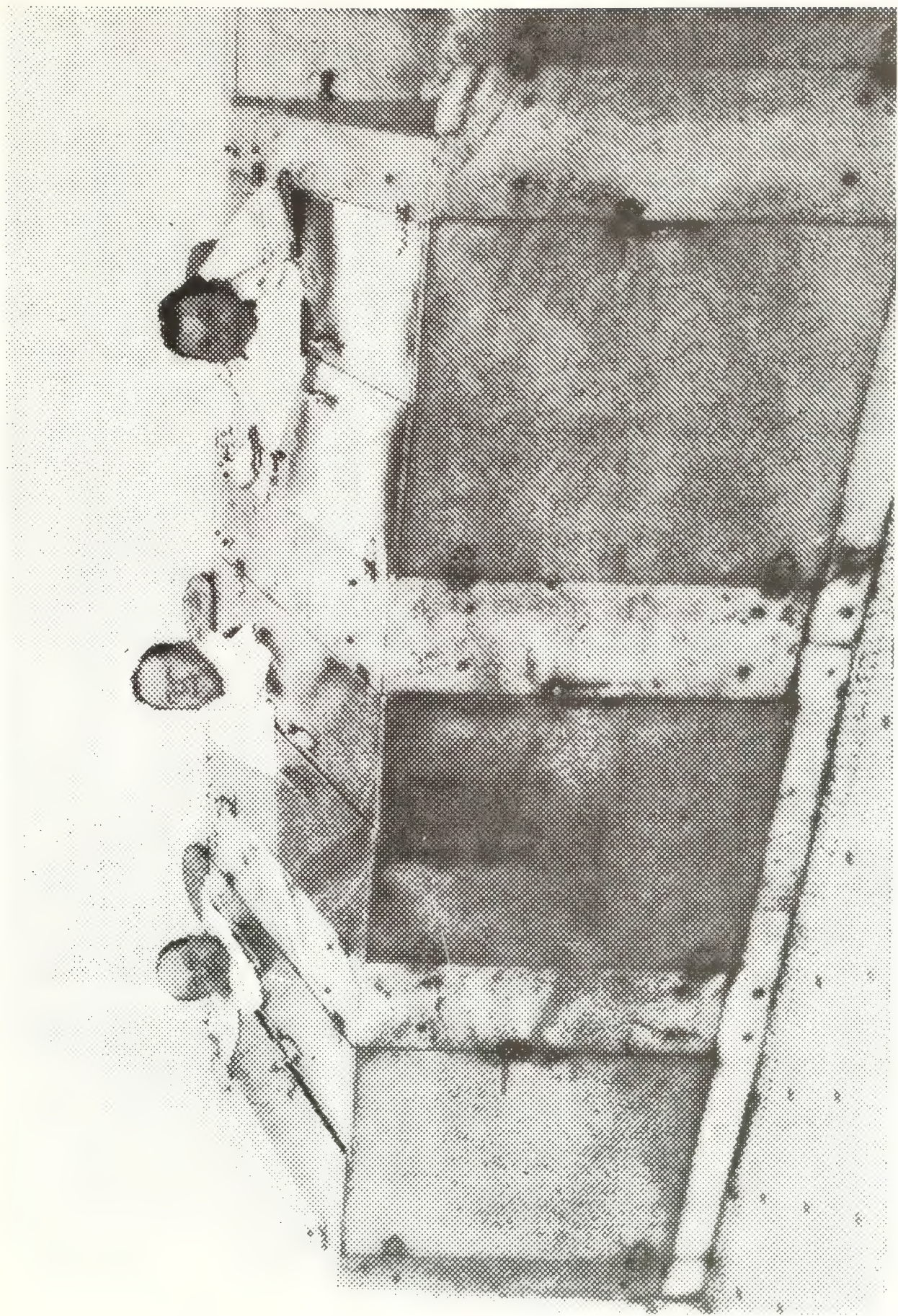




Figure 32. Men's pack room, Fordyce Bathhouse. The deep utility sink at the back of the room was used to rinse the towels for the hot packs. The two radiators along the left wall kept the pack room quite warm to prevent post-bath chills. The marble panel intruding into the right foreground is the side wall of the needle shower.

"Fordyce Bath House," 1915, p. 14. Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.





Figure 33. "Men's Pack Room with Cooling Room Beyond" in the Fordyce Bathhouse.

"Health Awaits You at the Fordyce Baths," c.1925-30, p. 18. Courtesy of Edward Fordyce, since transferred to Hot Springs National Park.



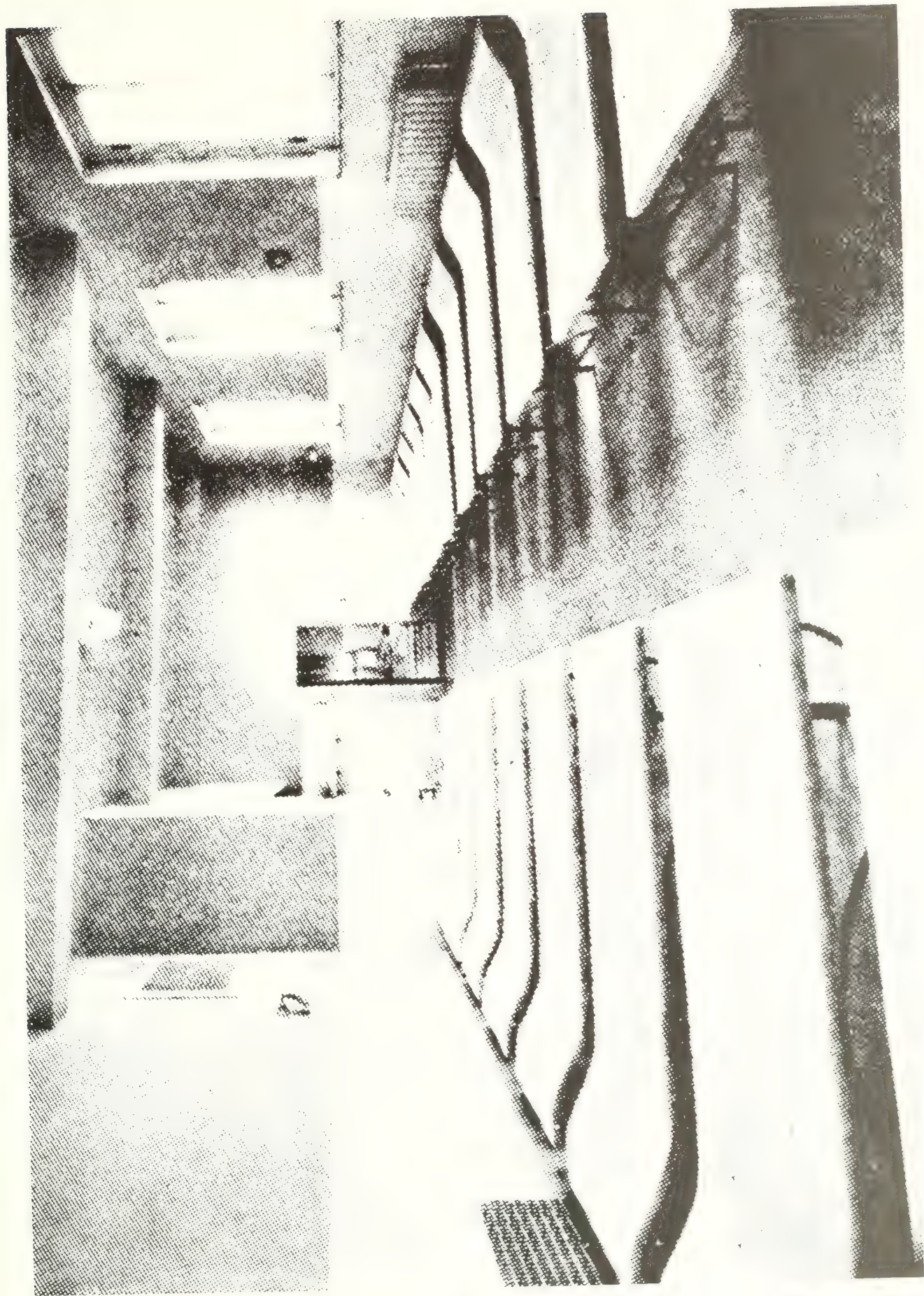


Figure 34. "Where Hot Packs Are Applied," men's pack room, Fordyce Bathhouse.

"Fordyce Baths," c.1934-1939, p. 3. Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.



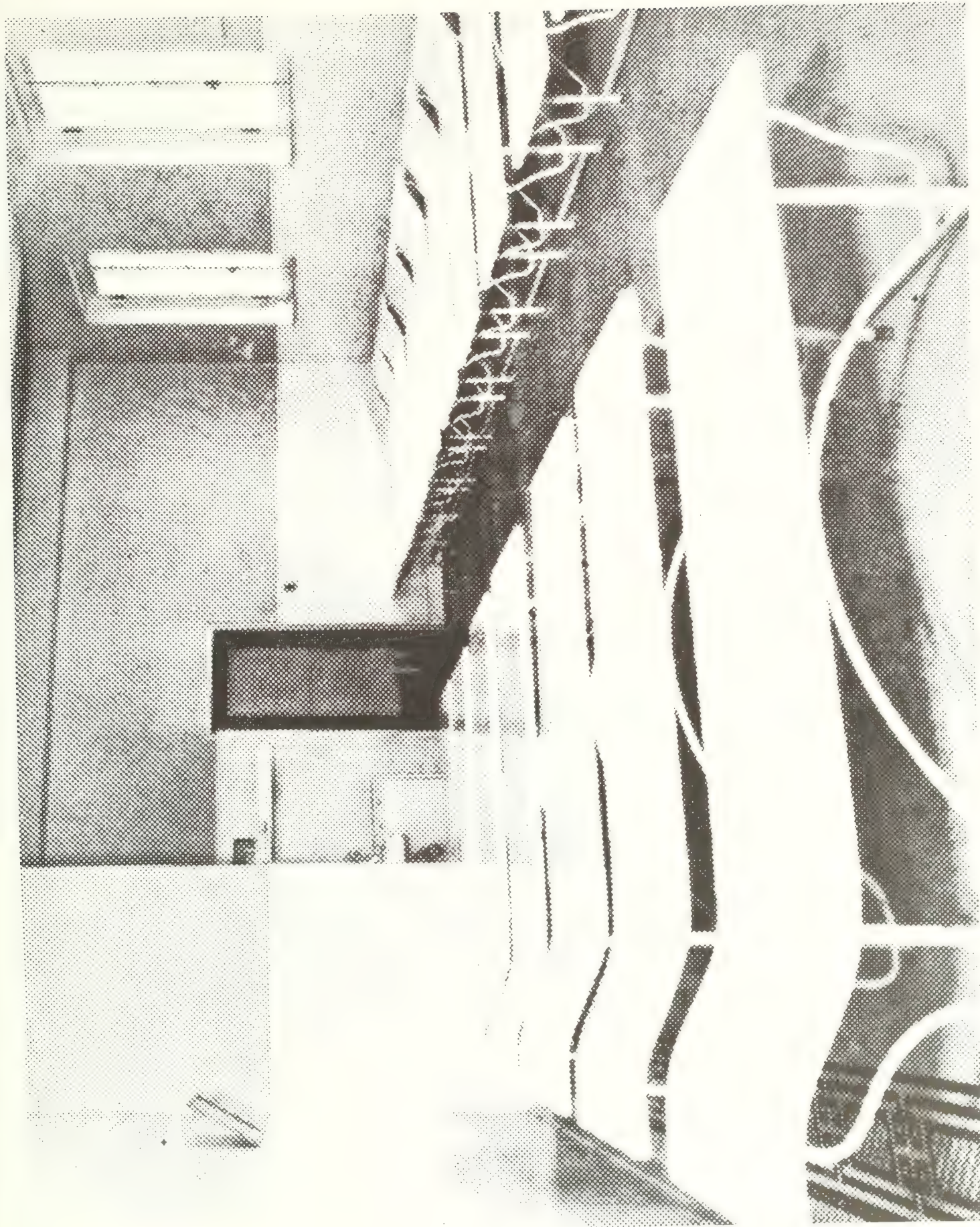


Figure 35. Men's pack room, Fordyce Bathhouse.

"The Fordyce Baths," c.1940s, p. 2. Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.



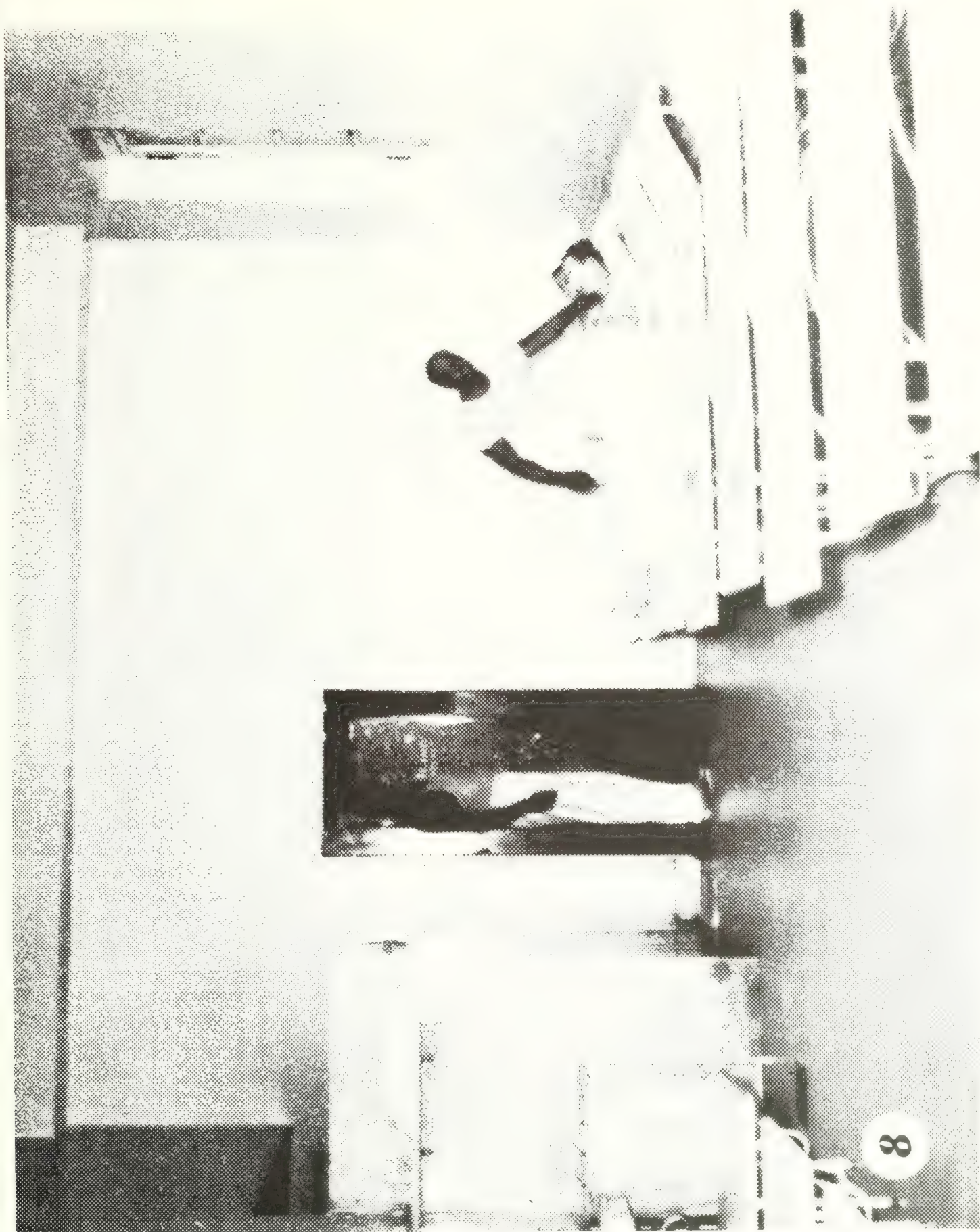


Figure 36. Application of hot pack, ladies' pack room, Fordyce Bathhouse. Note that there is no padding on the empty cots in the background, and no padding appears underneath the woman being wrapped. She may have a folded towel under her head for a pillow. The caption states that "hot or cold towels, soaked in natural water, are applied to affected part in the pack room. This procedure is considered very beneficial in certain ailments."

"Life Begins Again at the Fordyce," c.1940s, p. 3. Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.





Figure 37. Men's cooling room, Fordyce Bathhouse.

"Fordyce Bath House," 1915, p. 15. Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.



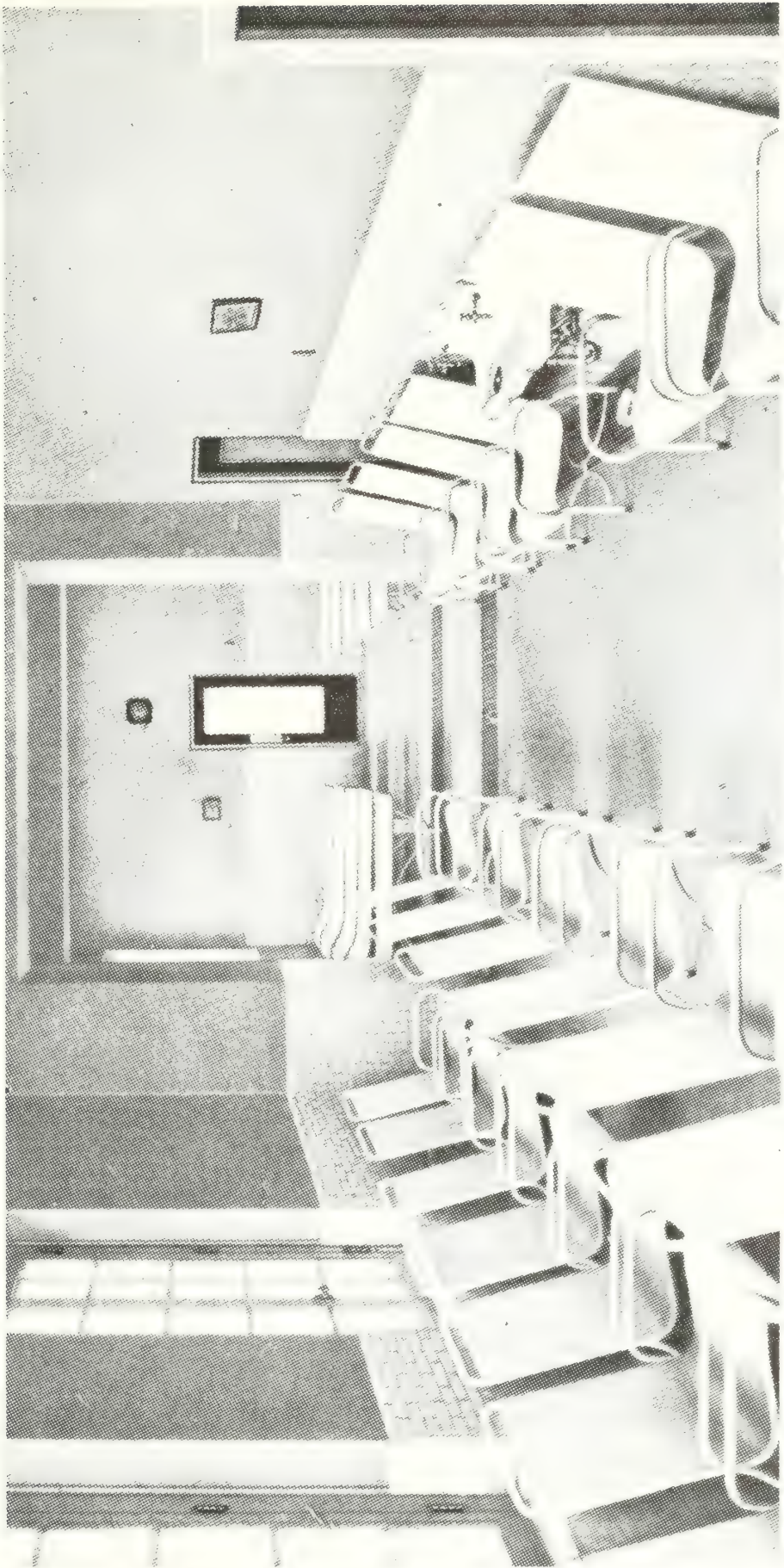


Figure 38. Men's cooling room, Fordyce Bathhouse.

"The Fordyce Baths," c.1940s, p. 3. Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.



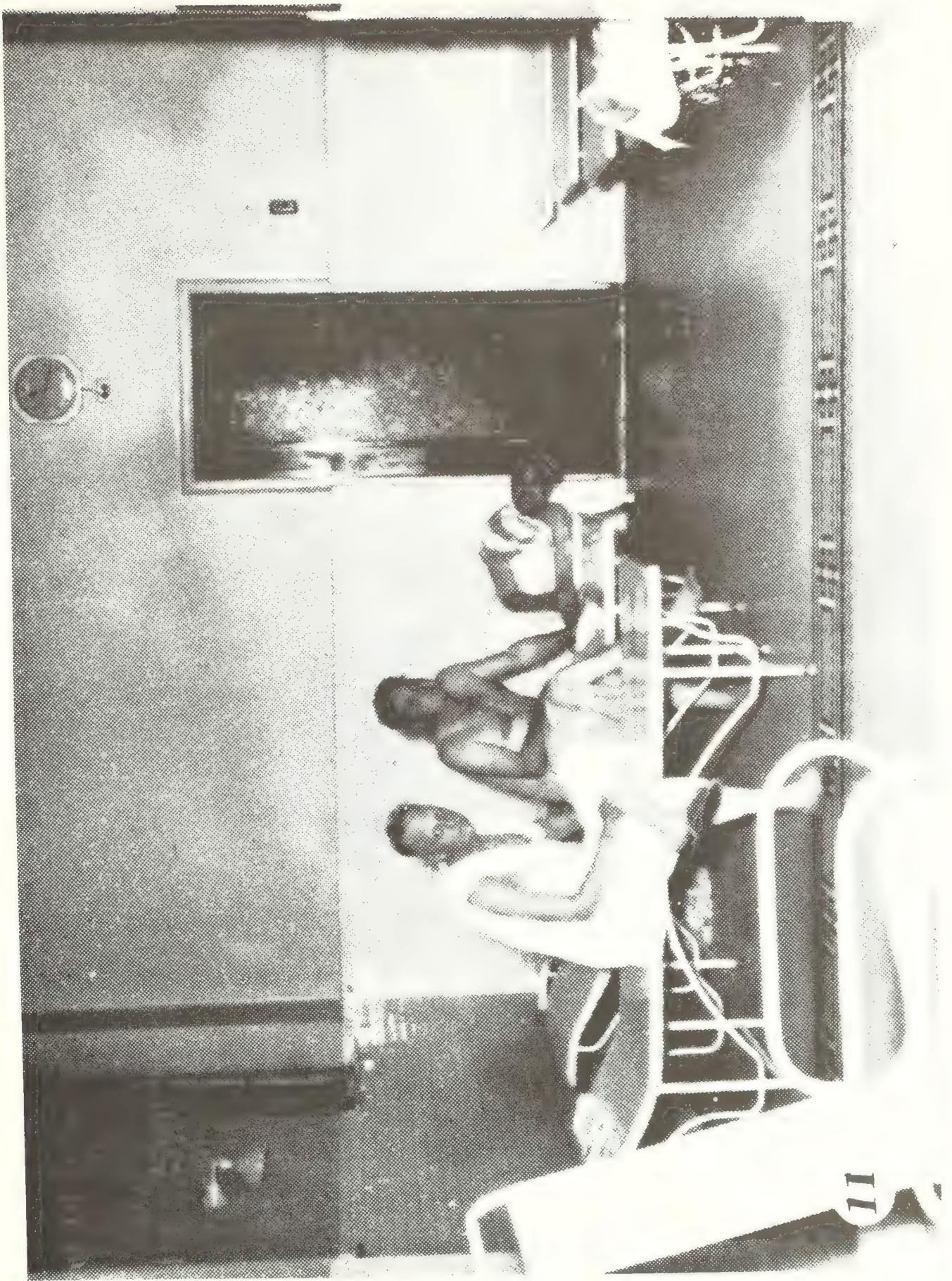


Figure 39. Ladies' dressing room and lounge, Fordyce Bathhouse. The platform rocker, lounges, armchair, and side chair came from the Palace gentlemen's parlor (figure 77). The nurse's rocker is similar in style to chairs in the Palace bathing department (figure 73). The center table came from the Palace electro-massage department (figures 74 and 75). The leather covered pieces may be the ones condemned as unsanitary by George Bolton (August 27, 1934, letter to Thomas J. Allen).

"Fordyce Bath House," 1915, p. 15. Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.



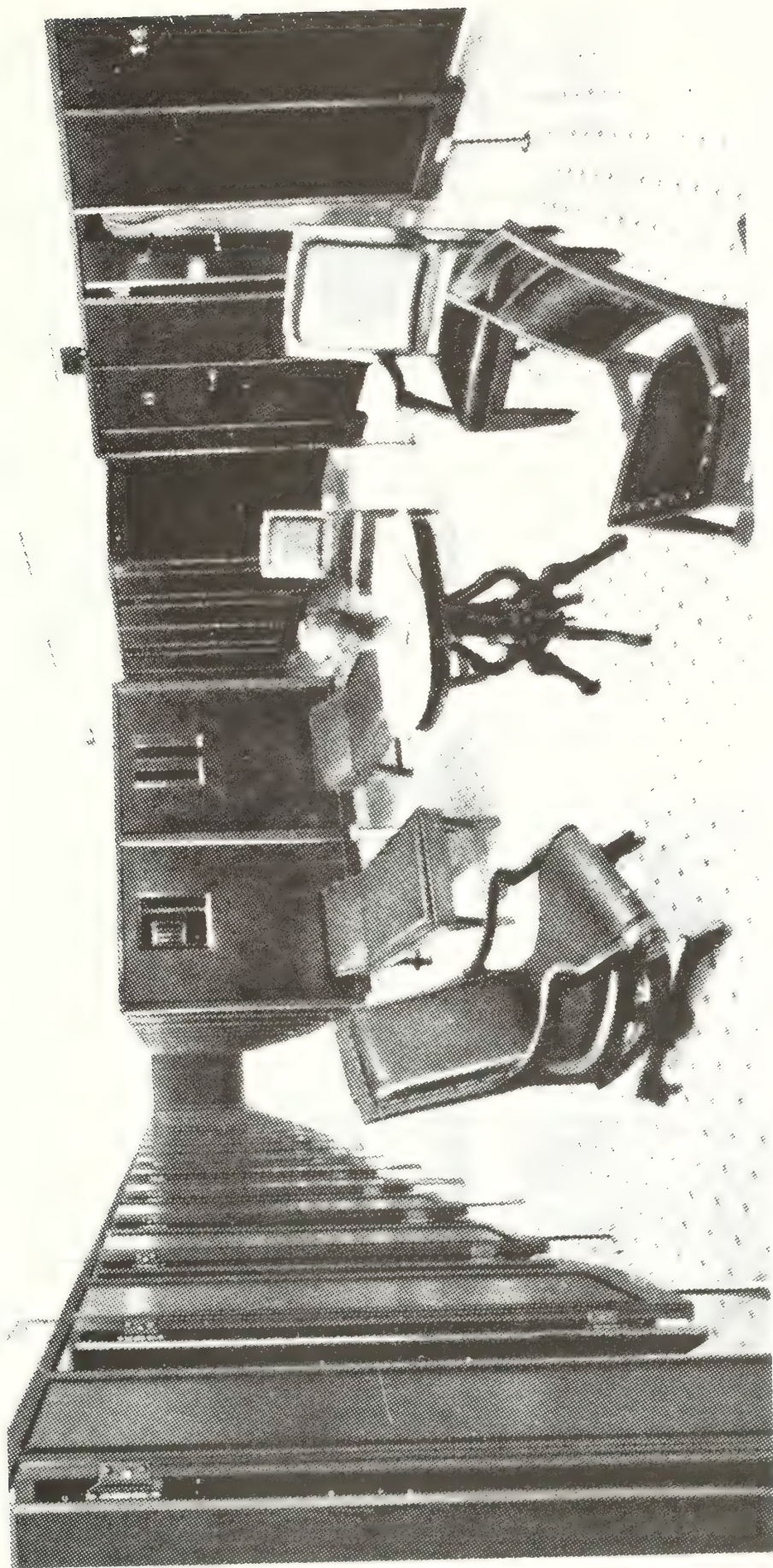


Figure 40. Ladies' courtyard, Fordyce Bathhouse. The courtyards were available for nude sunbathing.

"Life Begins Again at the Fordyce," c.1940s, p. 4. Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.





Figure 41. "Skilled Massage by Licensed Attendants," men's massage room, Fordyce Bathhouse.

"Fordyce Baths," c.1934-1939, p. 2. Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.



Figure 42. "Competent Practitioners Serve the Women's Department,"  
ladies' massage room, Fordyce Bathhouse. Note the wall cabinet,  
vibrator, and heat lamp, all apparently still in use.

"Fordyce Baths," c.1934-1939, pp. 2-3. Courtesy of Hot Springs National  
Park.



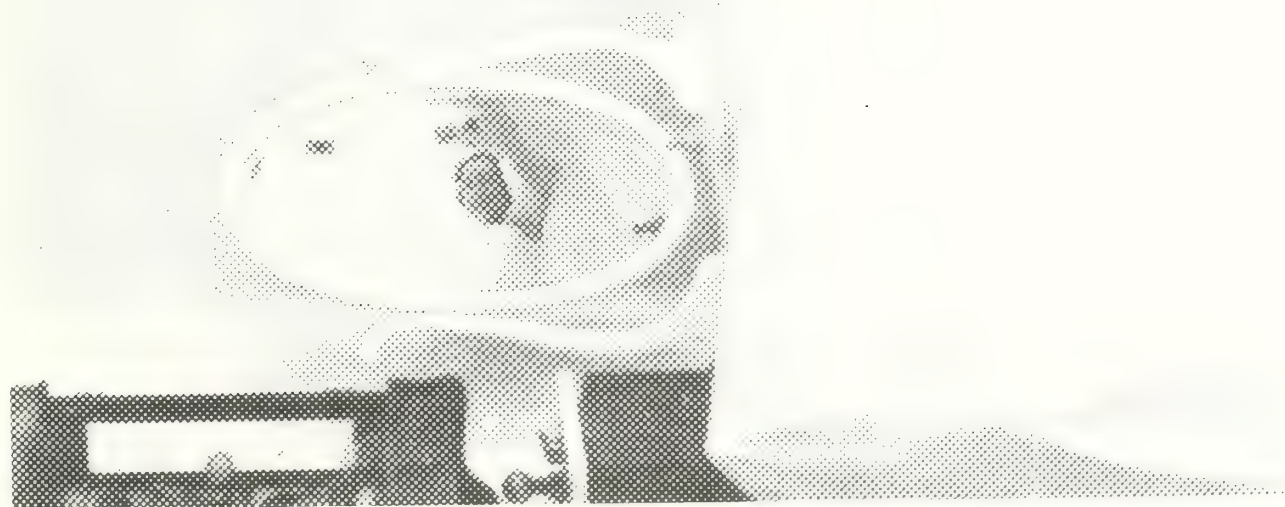
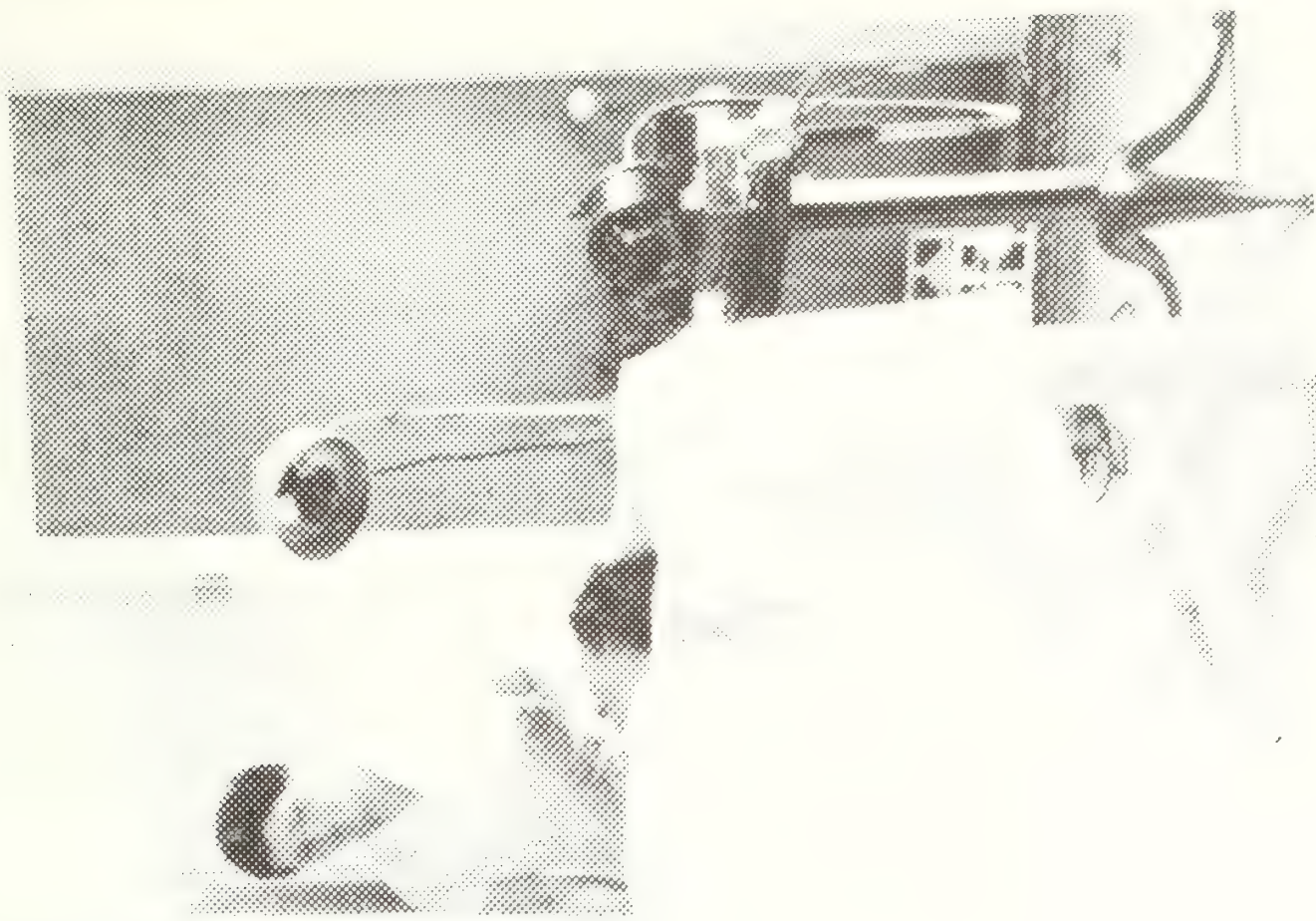


Figure 43. Men's massage room, Fordyce Bathhouse. Note that this massage table is padded and covered with a white sheet.

"The Fordyce Baths," c.1940s, pp. 2-3. Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.

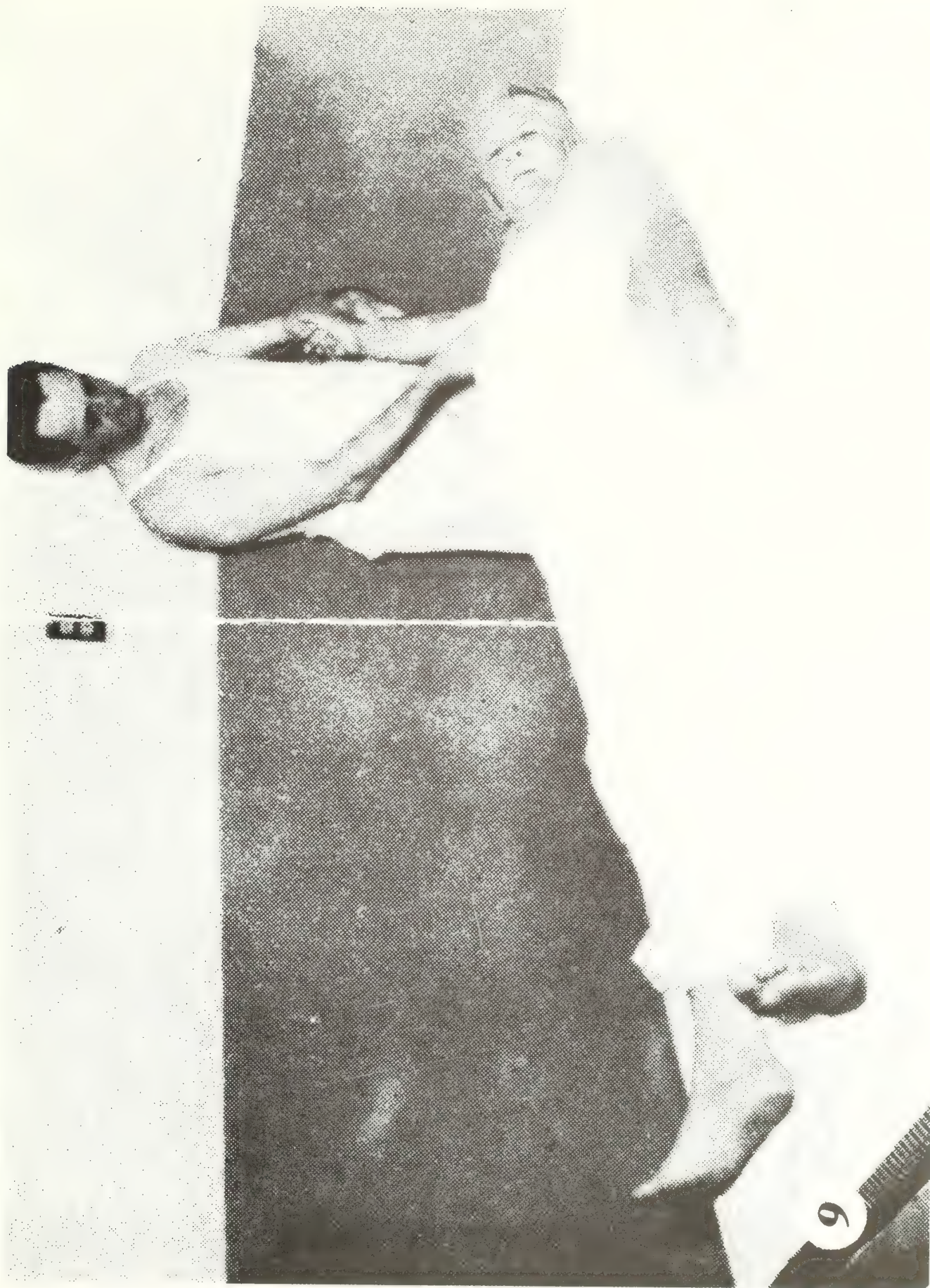




Figure 44. Ladies' massage room, Fordyce Bathhouse. Note that this table is also padded and covered with a white sheet. A thin pillow supports the patron's head.

"Life Begins Again at the Fordyce," c.1940s, p. 6. Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.





Figure 45.       Mechanotherapy department, Fordyce Bathhouse. The items have been identified as fully as possible. Compare with figures 74 and 75, the electricity and massage department at the Palace Bathhouse. The tissue oscillator and the static machine were clearly from the Palace. Electrical vibrators similar to those used at the Palace can be seen in the Fordyce mechanotherapy room.

"Fordyce Bath House," 1915, p. 16. Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.

- A     Static Machine
- B     Oven for Dry Hot Bake
- C     Electric "Horse"
- D     Rowing Machine
- E     Scale
- F     Stationary Bicycle
- G     Vibrator
- H     Vibrator
- I     Tissue Oscillator
- J     Sink

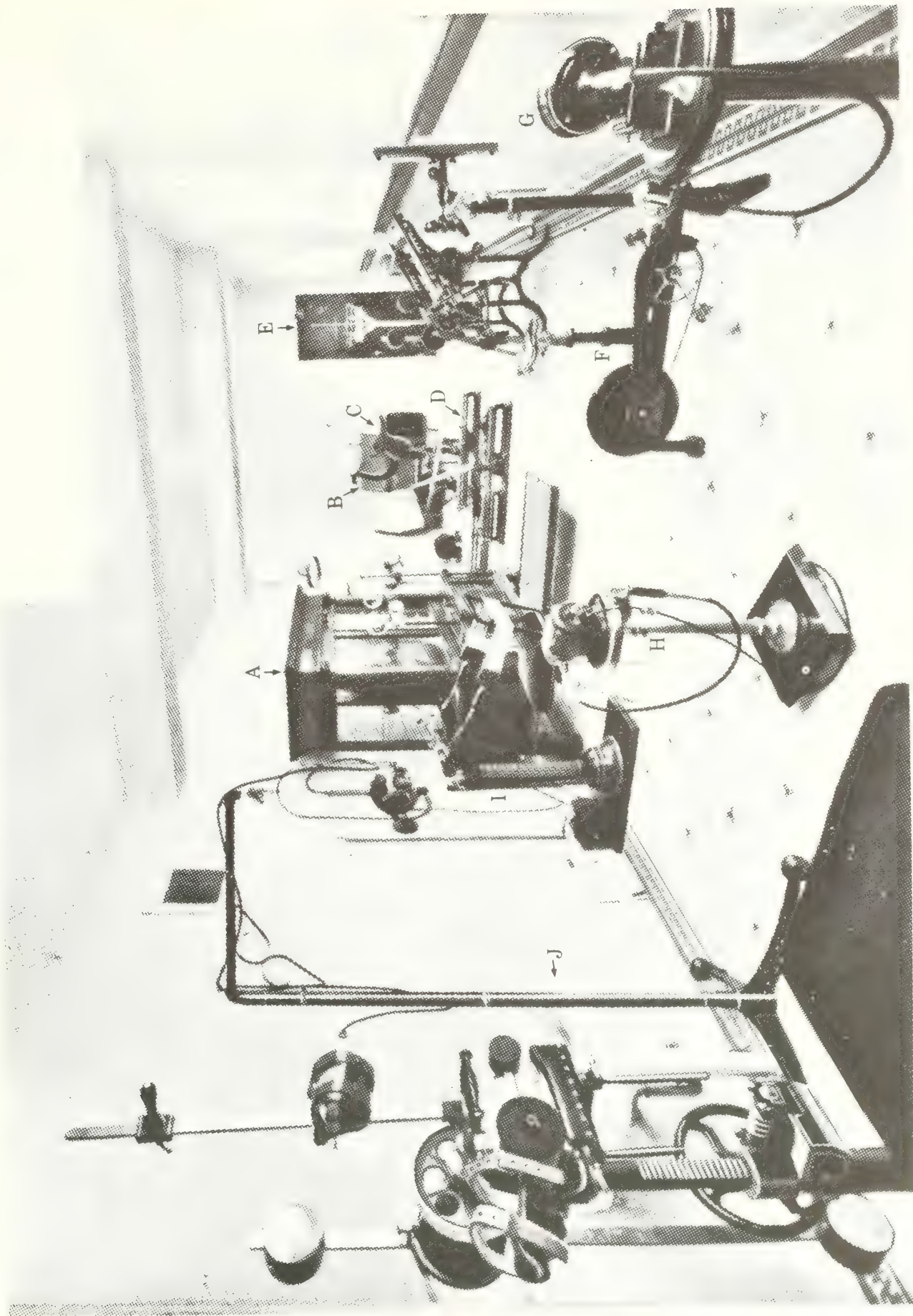


Figure 46. Assembly room, Fordyce Bathhouse. The wicker furniture was upholstered in leather. The grand piano has been moved to the other end of the assembly room (near the billiard room) for the purposes of the photograph.

"Fordyce Bath House," 1915, p. 18. Also in Cutter's Guide to Hot Springs, 1916, p. 23, and in "Maintaining a Standard," c.1916, p. 6. Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.





Figure 47. Assembly room, Fordyce Bathhouse. Although the booklet states that "maps, books, and other documents" are on display in the assembly room, no evidence of cases or display tables appears in this photograph.

"Health Awaits You at the Fordyce Baths," c.1925-30, p. 15. Courtesy of Edward Fordyce (since transferred to Hot Springs National Park).



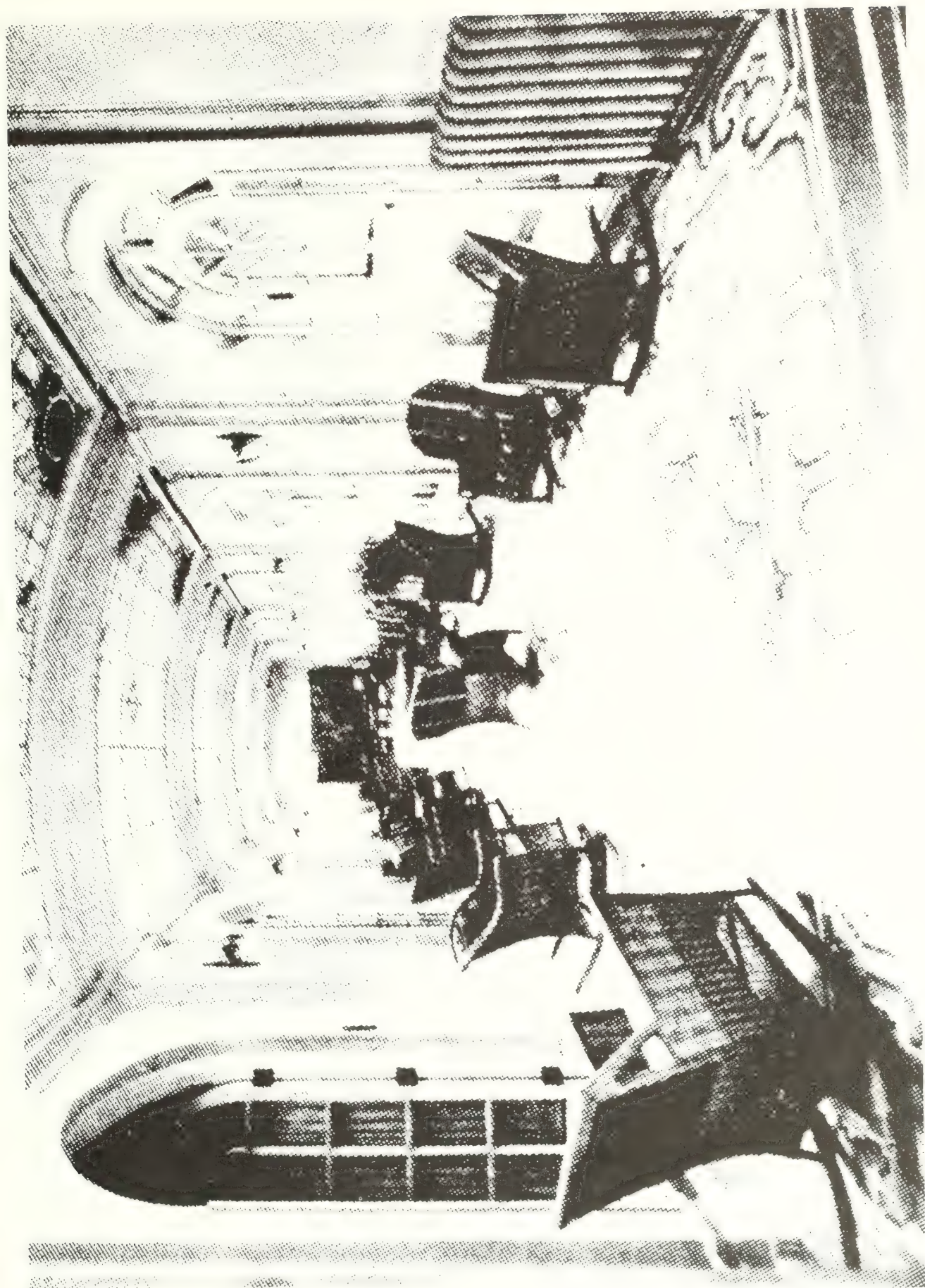


Figure 48. "The Famous Sun Room and Historical Exhibits," Fordyce Bathhouse. By the time this photograph was taken, the artifact cases had been built into the arches at the ends of the assembly room, and four large cases had been built along the inside wall between the doorways. Slipcovers protect (or hide) the upholstery on the wicker chairs. The gentlemen's parlor, seen through the door at the end of the assembly room, was probably being used as an office by Byron Niemeyer. A desk and chair can be seen through the doorway.

"Fordyce Baths," c.1934-1939, p. 3. Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.



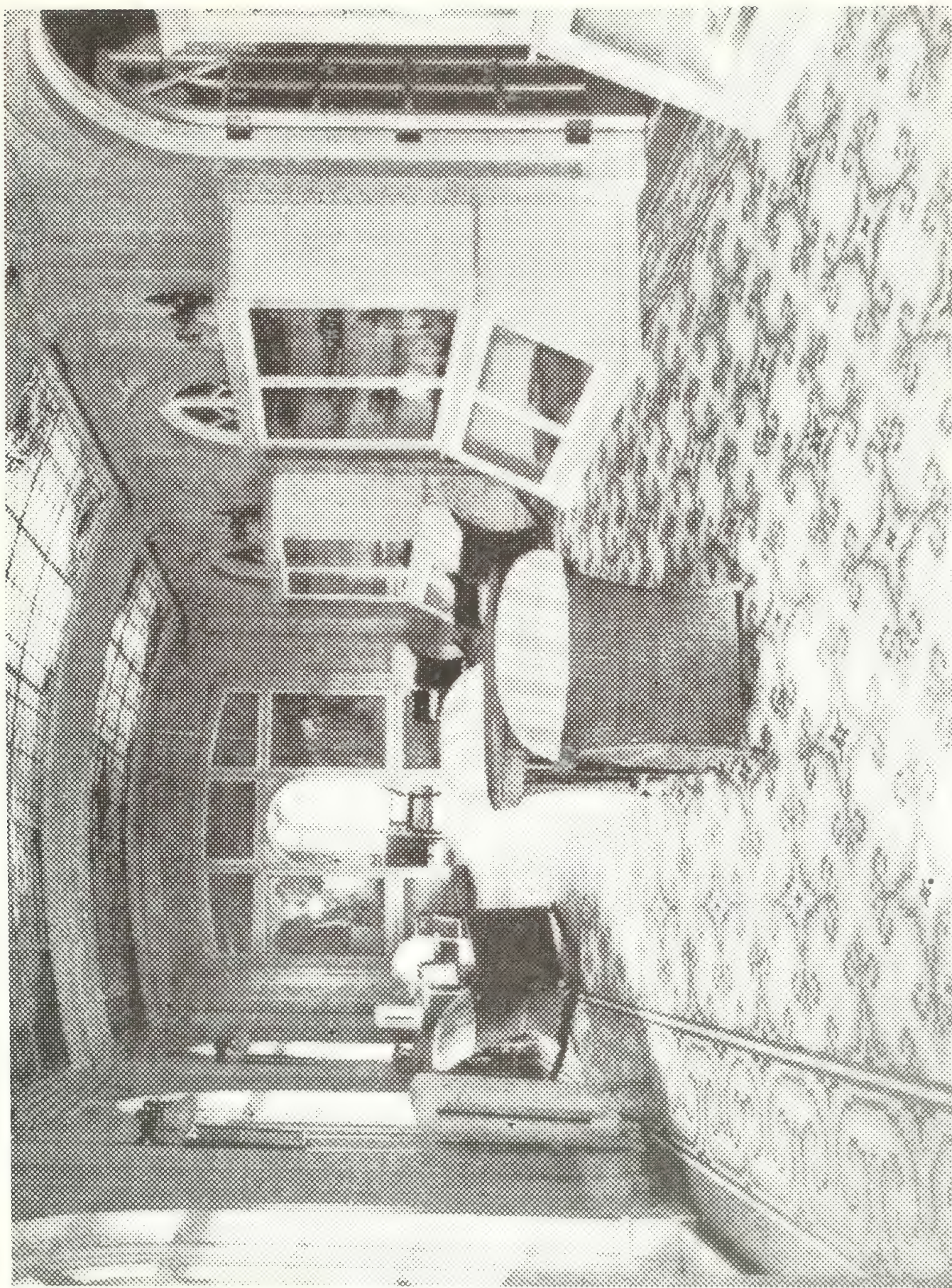




Figure 49. "Sun Room and Historical Exhibits," Fordyce Bathhouse.

"The Fordyce Baths," c.1940s, p. 2. Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.

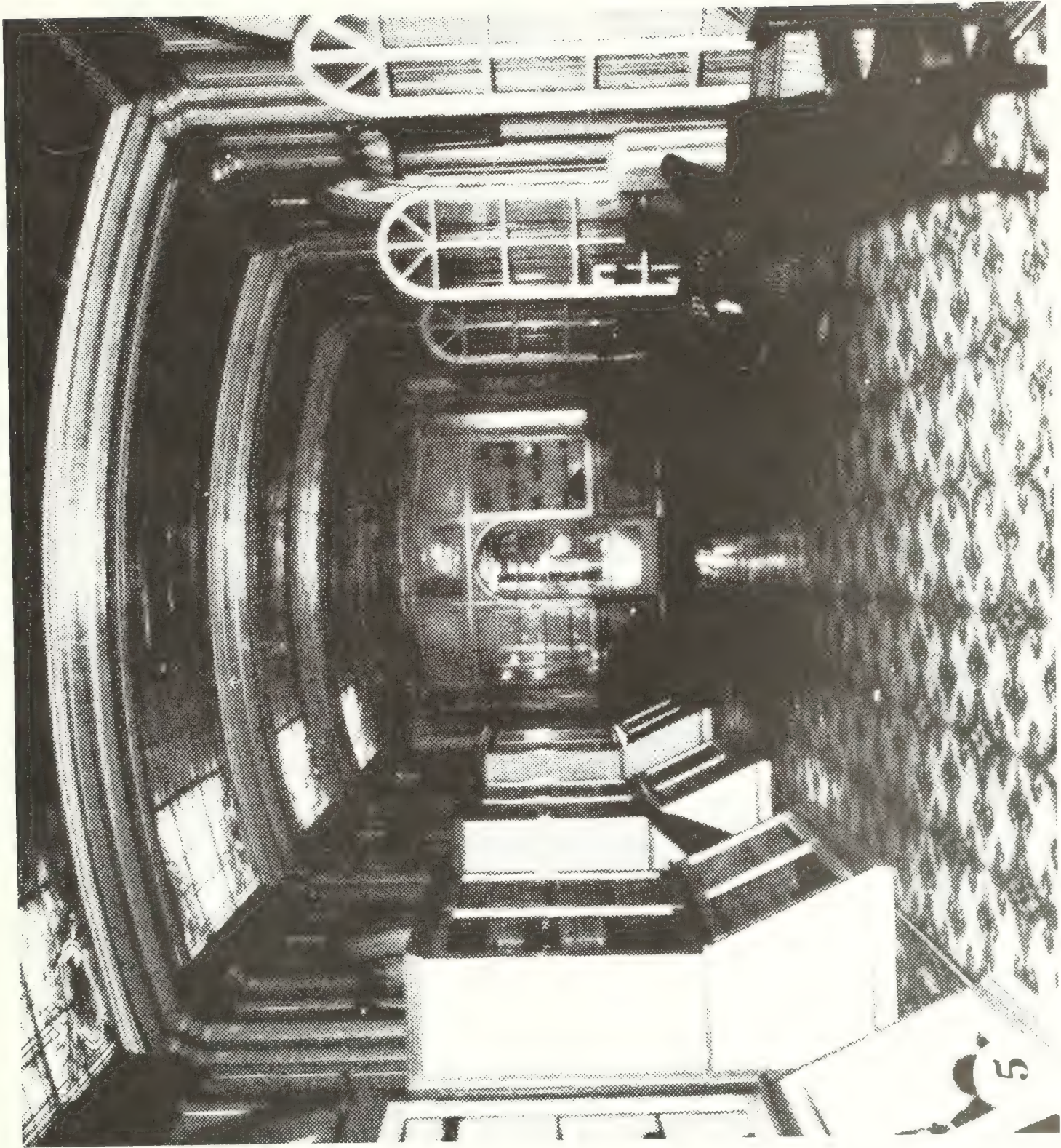


Figure 50. "Music Room," or ladies' parlor, Fordyce Bathhouse. The inclusion of this photograph in "Health Awaits You at the Fordyce Baths" is an enigma. Another photograph in the same booklet shows room 307 set up as a beauty parlor. Since other evidence indicates that this room was used as a beauty parlor by 1934 and the photograph of room 307 as a music room is an old photograph from 1915, room 307 is probably correctly portrayed as a beauty parlor in this booklet. This is not the only instance of incorrect photographs or exaggerated descriptions in advertising material making the Fordyce seem more luxurious or better equipped.

"Fordyce Bath House," 1915, p. 19. Also in "Maintaining a Standard," c.1916, p. 5, and in "Health Awaits You at the Fordyce Baths," c.1925-30, p. 12. Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.





Figure 51. "Billiard Room" or men's parlor, Fordyce Bathhouse. The wicker chairs pulled up to the wooden card table were salvaged from the Palace (see figures 75 and 76).

"Fordyce Bath House," 1915, p. 19. Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.





Figure 52. Beauty parlor, Fordyce Bathhouse. The objects in this photograph were collected from various rooms and set up in room 206. Since room 206 is 22'6" x 15' and the original beauty parlor is only 9'2" x 16'2", much of this furniture would not have fit in the real beauty parlor. By comparing this photograph with the photograph of the stateroom (figure 57; also set up), one observes that the dresser with the oval mirror, two small tables, the coat-rack and three of the metal chairs appear in both photographs. It is likely that the stateroom "set up" was photographed first, the bed moved out, beauty parlor furnishings moved in, and the beauty parlor photograph taken. If the obviously superfluous objects are subtracted and the result compared with later photographs of the beauty parlor, the original furnishings of the beauty parlor include one long, narrow wooden table with large mirror; one floor lamp; one white enameled metal desk (for manicure table); two white enameled metal armchairs; one dark metal armchair (possibly swivel); one large hair dryer on tripod stand; one swiveling hair-dressing chair; one vanity with mirror; three hand held electrical facial massage appliances; one hand mirror; and a box, which may have held curlers, pins, or combs. The object between the chair and the sink is a head support for use while shampooing hair. A rubber hose and nozzle is attached to the faucet. The female bust appears in the photograph of the music room as well (figure 50), where it seems more appropriate. The two potted palms on wicker stands are similar to those found in the lobby, assembly room, and other rooms. Potted palms may have been used in decorating the beauty parlor. Similarly, one or two glass-topped tables and a wall clock as seen in the room would have been useful in a beauty parlor. Since the tables appear in the c.1925-30 photograph of the beauty parlor, they likely formed part of the original furnishings.

"Fordyce Bath House," 1915, p. 17. Also in an advertisement for the Fordyce beauty parlor in the Hot Springs New Era, n.d., Hudgins Scrapbook, item 3, p. 101.





Figure 53. Beauty parlor, Fordyce Bathhouse. By the time this photograph was taken, the beauty parlor had been moved into room 307. This move must have occurred before 1934 since in that year ledger entries indicate that the cabinets, which held the Indian relics, were built into the arched doorway.

Many pieces of furniture and equipment from the 1915 picture appear in this photograph: the white enameled metal desk, the hair-dressing chair, the dresser with oval mirror, the two small glass-topped tables, the dark metal armchair -- now painted white, and the hair dryer on a tripod stand. Two wooden chairs appear for the first time. In the foreground is a wicker armchair similar to the chairs used in the assembly room. An extra sink appears to have been installed to the right of the fireplace. Piping for this sink can still be seen today. Metal rods, installed near the ceiling for supporting curtains, divided the room into private cubicles.

The beauty parlor is described in the brochure on p. 16: "Opening to the south is the Ladies' Beauty Parlor, completely equipped and in charge of an experienced operator."

"Health Awaits You at the Fordyce Baths," c.1925-30, p. 17. Courtesy of Edward Fordyce (booklet has since been transferred to Hot Springs National Park).



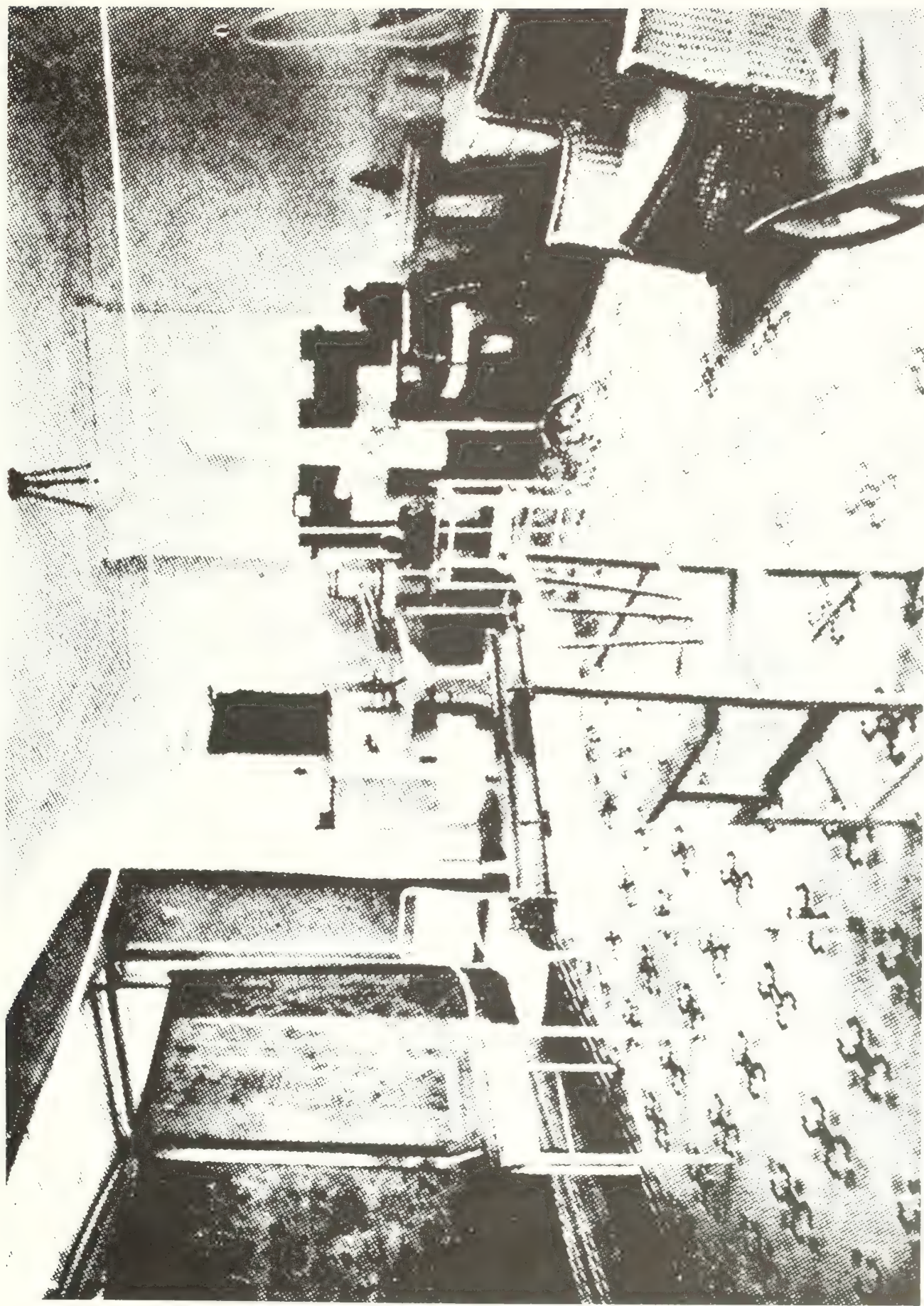


Figure 54. Beauty parlor, Fordyce Bathhouse. This photograph of the beauty parlor in room 307 shows several items now familiar: hair-dressing chair, metal swivel armchair, manicure table, two sinks, and metal rods for curtains. A two-drawer dresser, possibly the lower half of the dresser with oval mirror, is barely visible at the far right. The two white-painted wooden side chairs are new as is the hair dryer and the permanent wave machine.

"The Fordyce Baths," c.1940s, p. 2. Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.





Figure 55. Beauty parlor, Fordyce Bathhouse. The beauty parlor has acquired a new hair dryer since the last photograph was taken, but the manicure table, chair, and location in room 307 are the same. The caption reads: "THE BEAUTY PARLOR at the Fordyce is completely equipped for all kinds of beauty work. After the bath you may relax in quiet comfortable surrounding while a competent beauty operator makes you feel and look your best. Permanent waves, facials, finger waves are all part of this special Fordyce service."

"Life Begins Again at the Fordyce," c.1940s, p. 4. Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.





Figure 56. Beauty parlor, Fordyce Bathhouse. The beauty parlor had been moved to room 206 by the time this photograph was taken.

Stong, Phil, "Hot Springs," Holiday, January 1951, p. 41. Courtesy of the Special Collections Department, University of Arkansas Library.





Steamed and pounded, Nancy French and her mother dry hair after treatments.

Figure 57. Stateroom, Fordyce Bathhouse. Once again, room 206 was used to stage the photograph of a much smaller room. Probably only the bed, dresser, chair, and coatrack would have fit into an average-size stateroom. The brochure described the staterooms as follows:

On the third floor...are found the twenty-two private staterooms whose appointments make the acknowledgment of even those most difficult to please. In size, eight by twelve feet, each stateroom is furnished completely and compactly, and provided with valet or maid service -- in fact, every consideration for the fastidious guest. Bed, dresser and chairs are beautiful white enameled metal.

"Fordyce Bath House," 1915, p. 15. Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.





Figure 58. "A Typical Private State Room," Fordyce Bathhouse. This photograph truly depicts a stateroom. A mirror, chair, coatrack, and bed are visible. A dresser may have stood along the wall opposite the chair.

"Fordyce Baths," c.1934-1939, p. 2. Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.



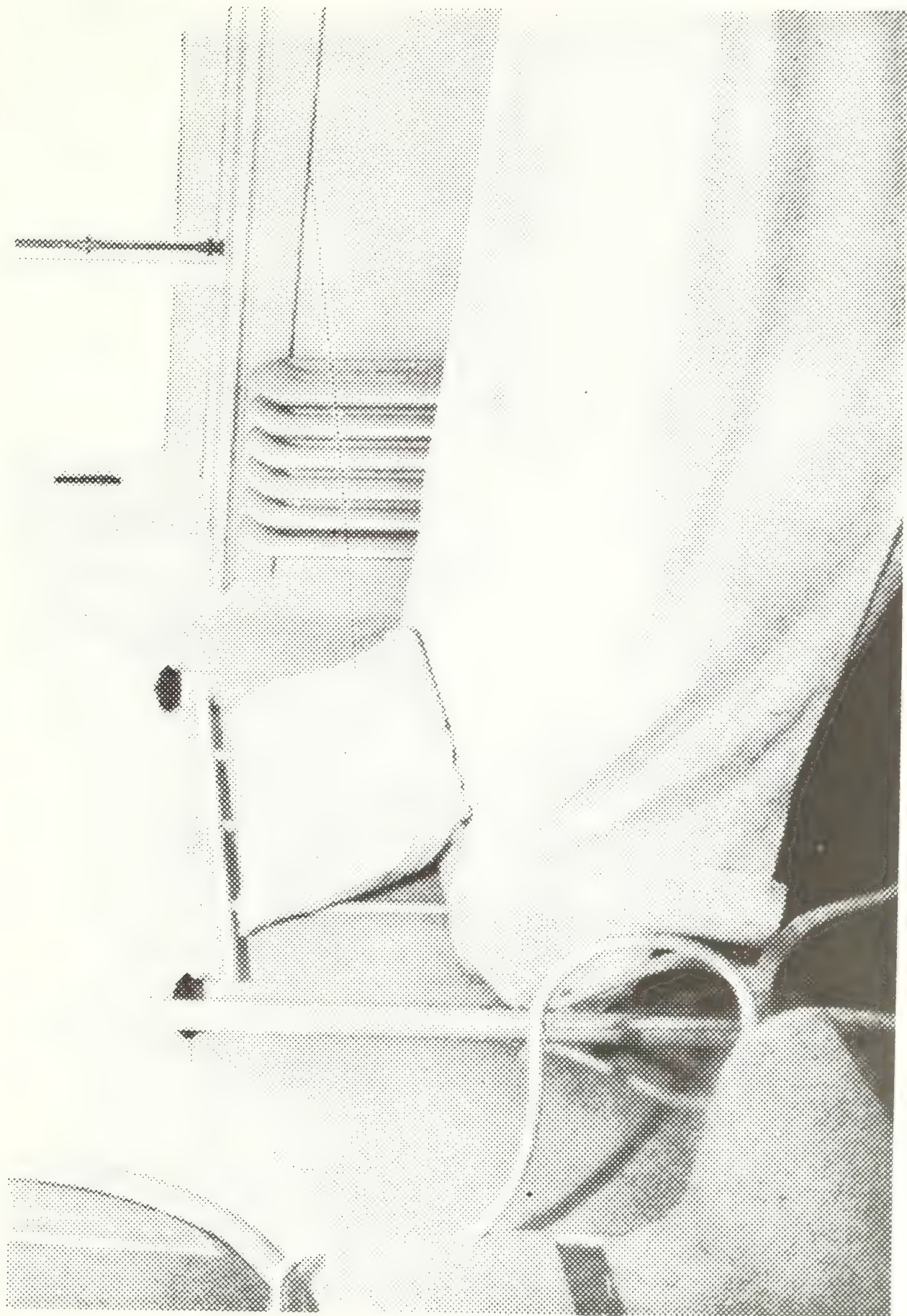


Figure 59. Gymnasium in the Fordyce Bathhouse.

"The Fordyce Baths," St. Louis, MO: Woodward and Tiernan, 1915, p. 17.  
Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.

- A Traveling Rings (two sets of six)
- B Hanging Rings (two pair)
- C Rope Ladder
- D Climbing Rope
- E Trapeze
- F Punching Bags (two)
- G Climbing Rack
- H Pulley Weights (four sets)
- I Slant Board
- J Indian Clubs
- K Scale
- L Springboard
- M Striking Dummy
- N Medicine Ball
- O Parallel Bars
- P Horizontal Bar



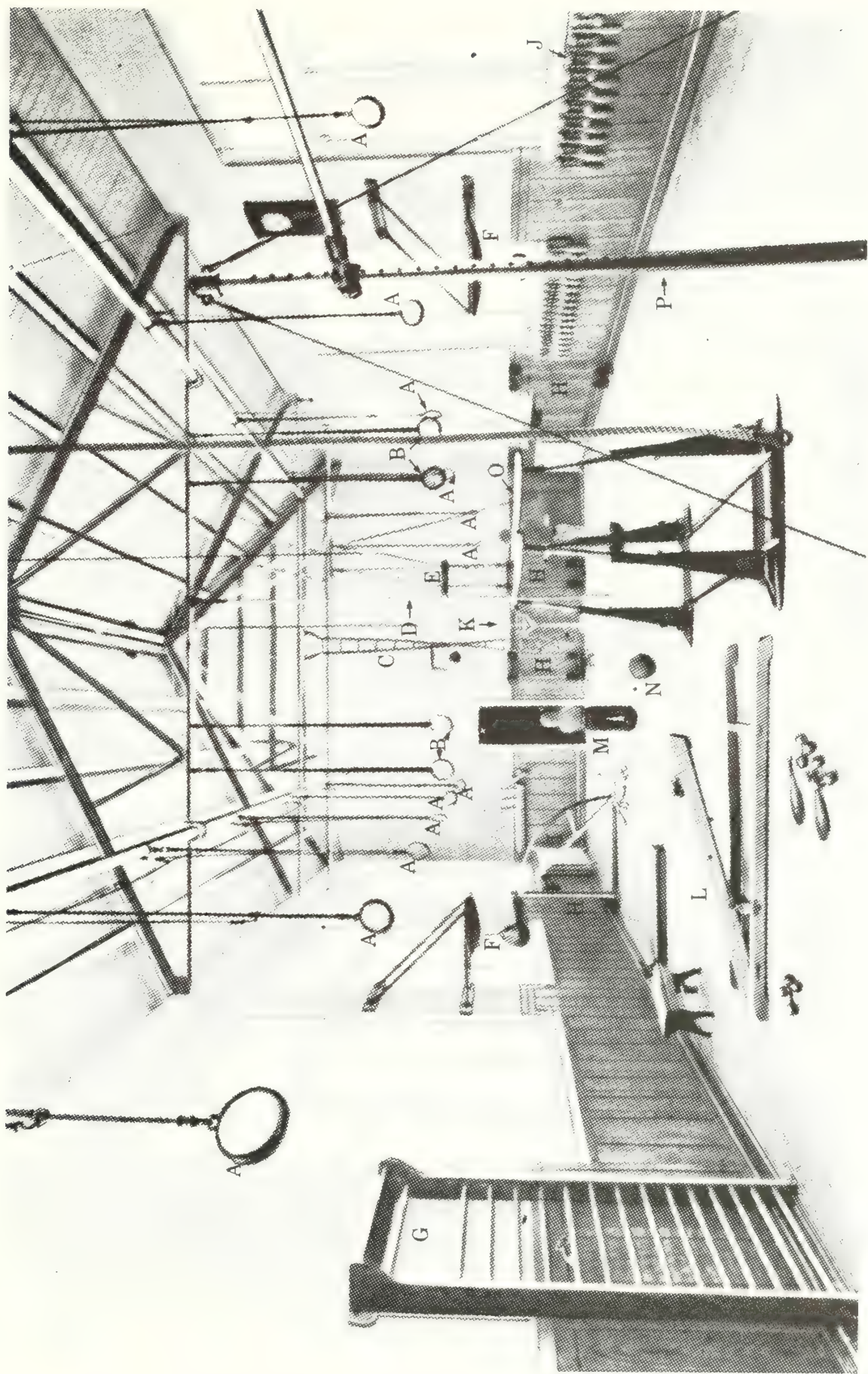


Figure 60. "For Voluntary or Prescribed Exercise," Fordyce Bathhouse. Several things changed in the gymnasium between 1915 and the year this photograph was taken. Floor mats, a sink, several metal chairs, a coatrack, and a hanging punching dummy were added. The slant board was moved from the west to the north wall and the scale from the north to the east wall. Finally, a round modern clock replaced the older rectangular one.

"Fordyce Baths," c.1934-1939, p. 3. Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.



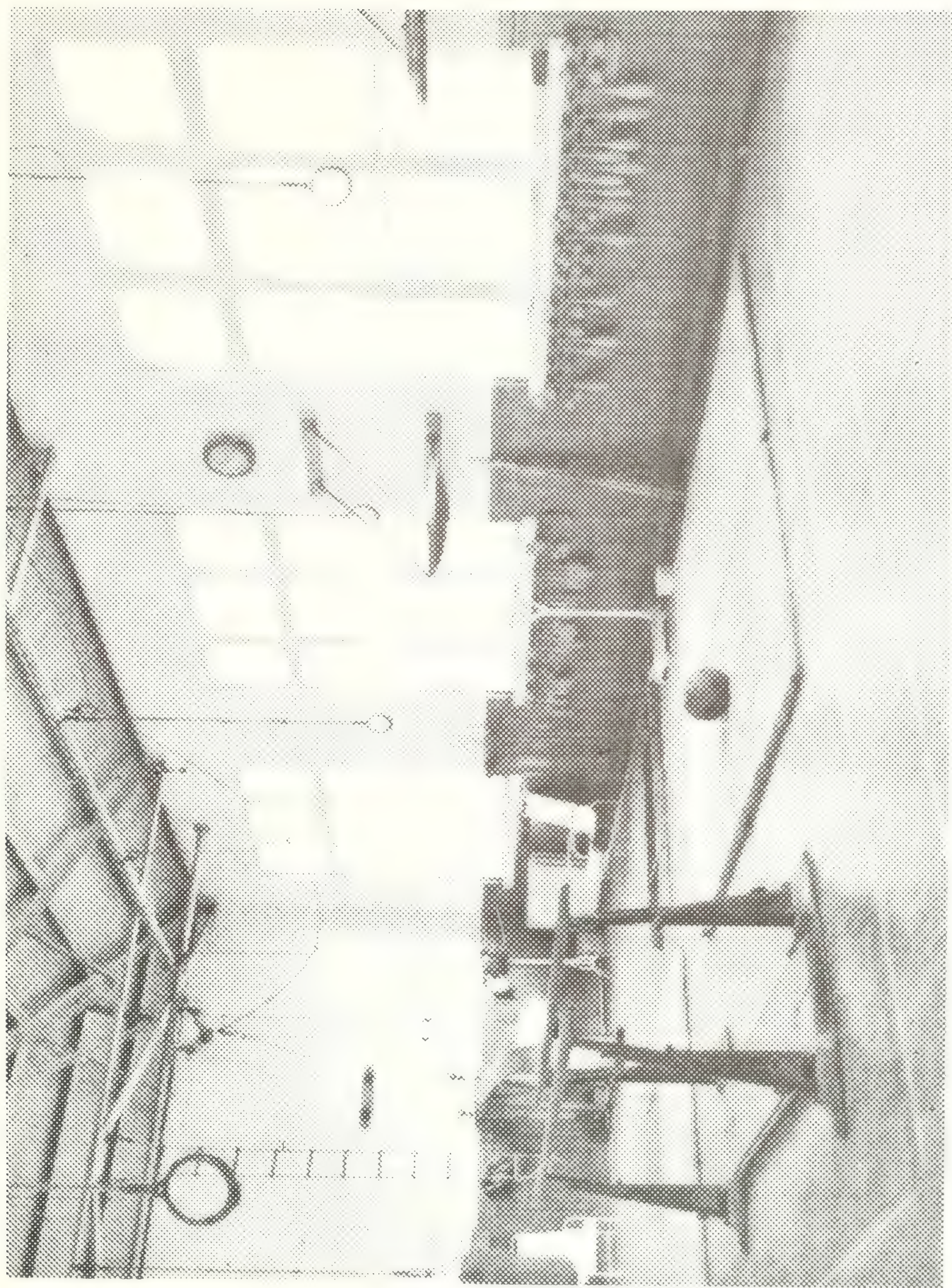


Figure 61. Gymnasium, Fordyce Bathhouse. Sparring was a popular activity at the Fordyce for both professionals and amateurs. Boxing gloves, punching bags, striking dummies, and the padded "boxing ring" seen here were available for use by the patrons. Thick pads cover the wooden floor to protect exercisers from injuries due to falls.

"The Fordyce Baths," c.1940s, p. 2. Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.



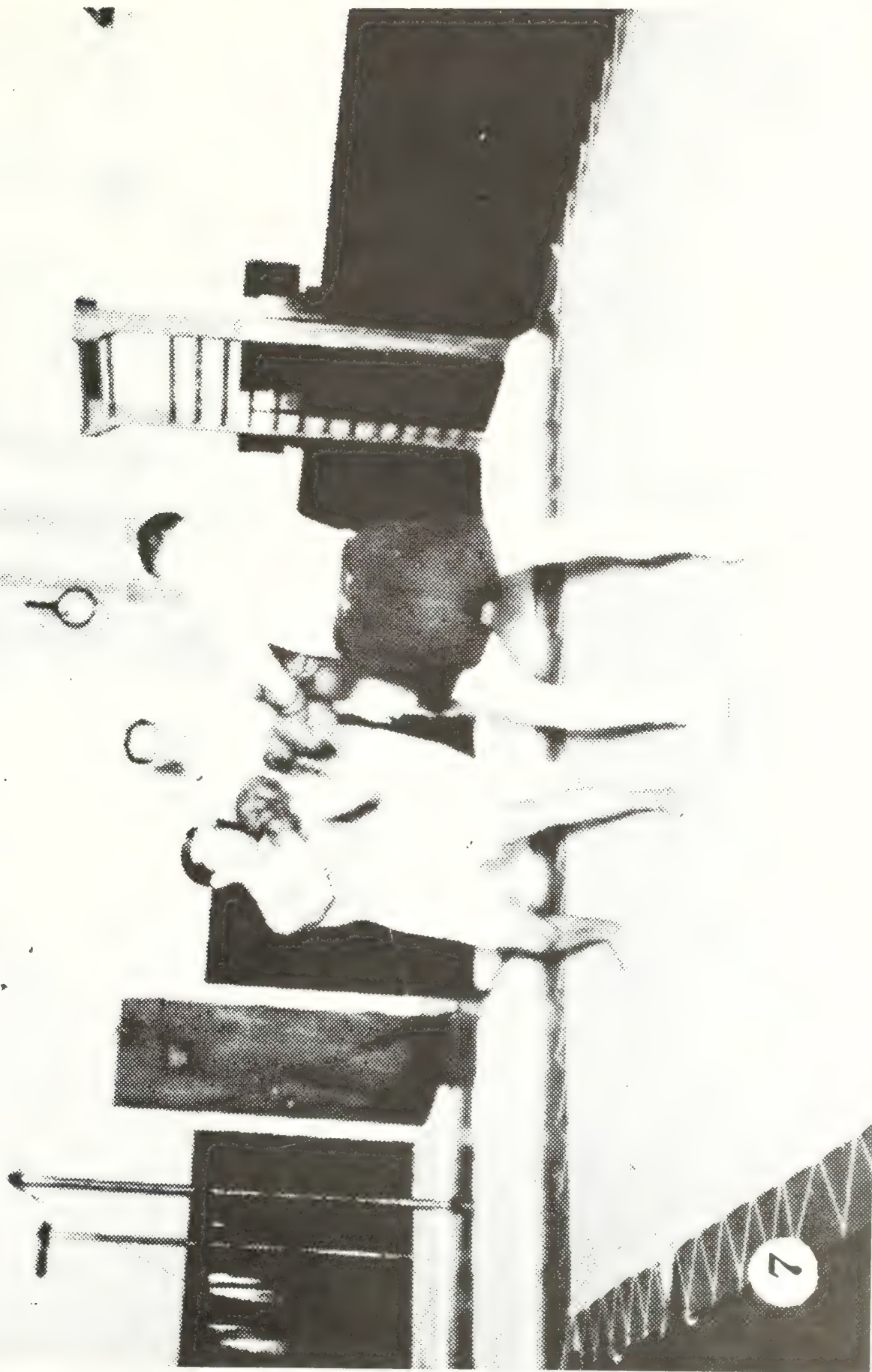


Figure 62. Gymnasium, Fordyce Bathhouse. The caption explains that "the Fordyce gymnasium is the largest in the National Park and is at the disposal of those bathing at the Fordyce. This complete exercise center has all the necessary equipment for a good work out. The devices are especially designed for those patients who have to reeducate muscles and joints."

"Life Begins Again at the Fordyce," c.1940s, p. 6. Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.





Figure 63. Hubbard tub, Fordyce Bathhouse. Photograph stamped on reverse "DeLuxe Studio/Mar 1 1939/Hot Springs, Ark." Although staged," this photograph and figures 64 and 65 illustrate the use of the Hubbard tub. This photograph shows the overhead stretcher lowering the "patient" into the tub. Usually physical therapy was performed after the patient had been moved from the stretcher to the plinth.

Courtesy of the Library of Congress.

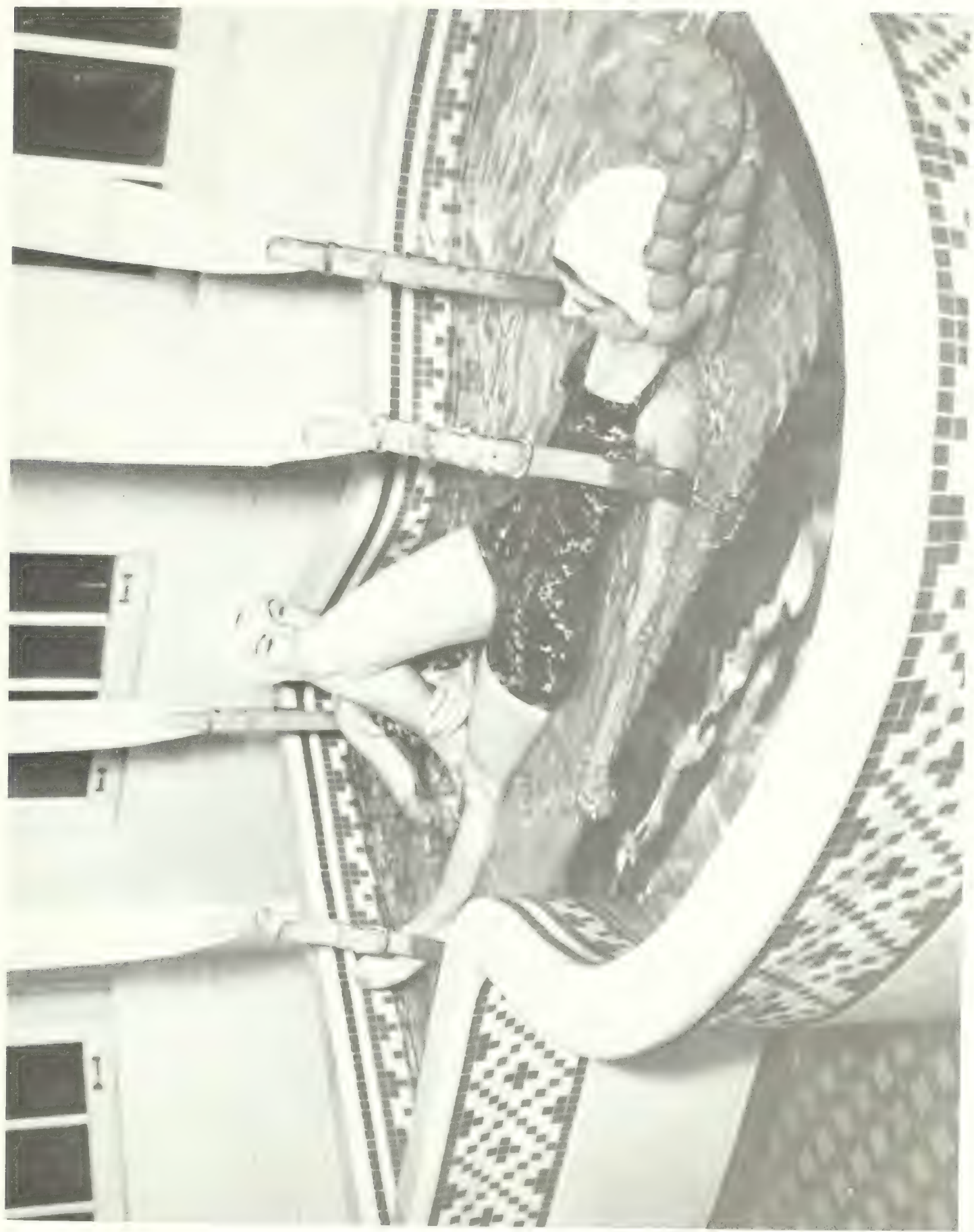


Figure 64. Hubbard tub, Fordyce Bathhouse. Stamped on reverse "DeLuxe Studio/Mar 1 1939/Hot Springs, Ark." The buoyancy of the water and the handrails enabled the patient to retrain muscles for walking.

Courtesy of the Library of Congress.





Figure 65. Hubbard tub, Fordyce Bathhouse. Stamped on reverse "DeLuxe Studio/Mar 1 1939/Hot Springs, Ark." This photograph does not show the tub being used therapeutically but does clearly show the overhead stretcher system.

Courtesy of the Library of Congress.



Figure 66. Hubbard tub, Fordyce Bathhouse.

"The Fordyce Baths," c.1940s, p. 2. Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.





Figure 67. Hubbard tub, Fordyce Bathhouse.

"We're On Our Way to...Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas," c.1940s.  
Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.





Figure 68. Hubbard tub, Fordyce Bathhouse.

"Life Begins Again at the Fordyce," c.1940s, p. 1. Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.





Figure 69. Hubbard tub, Fordyce Bathhouse. Pictorial evidence indicates that it was much more common for the physiotherapist to provide treatment while in the tub with the patient. The position pictured here seems uncomfortable and unwieldy.

"Life Begins Again at the Fordyce," c.1940s, p. 5. Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.



Figure 70. Hubbard tub, Fordyce Bathhouse. Note the rolled up towel placed behind the patient's head on the plinth and the dressing gown thrown over the metal armchair.

National Geographic, vol. XC, No. 3, September 1946, p. xvi. Photograph by Willard R. Culver, courtesy of National Geographic Society (copyright 1946).





Figure 71. "Rheumatic patients get hydrotherapy massage in Hubbard tubs." Although the Hubbard tub ceased operating officially in 1942, it may have been available by special request after 1947.

Stong, Phil, "Hot Springs," Holiday, January 1951, p. 41. Courtesy of the Special Collections Department, University of Arkansas Library.



Figure 72. Roof garden, Fordyce Bathhouse. It is likely that much of the furniture seen here was brought up to the roof for the photograph, since many items are not suitable for outdoor use.

"Fordyce Bath House," 1915, p. 9. Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.





## PALACE BATHHOUSE

Figure 73. Bathing department in the Palace Bathhouse.

Charles Cutter and Sons, Cutter's Guide to Hot Springs, Arkansas, 1907, p. 30. Courtesy of the Special Collections Department, University of Arkansas Library.



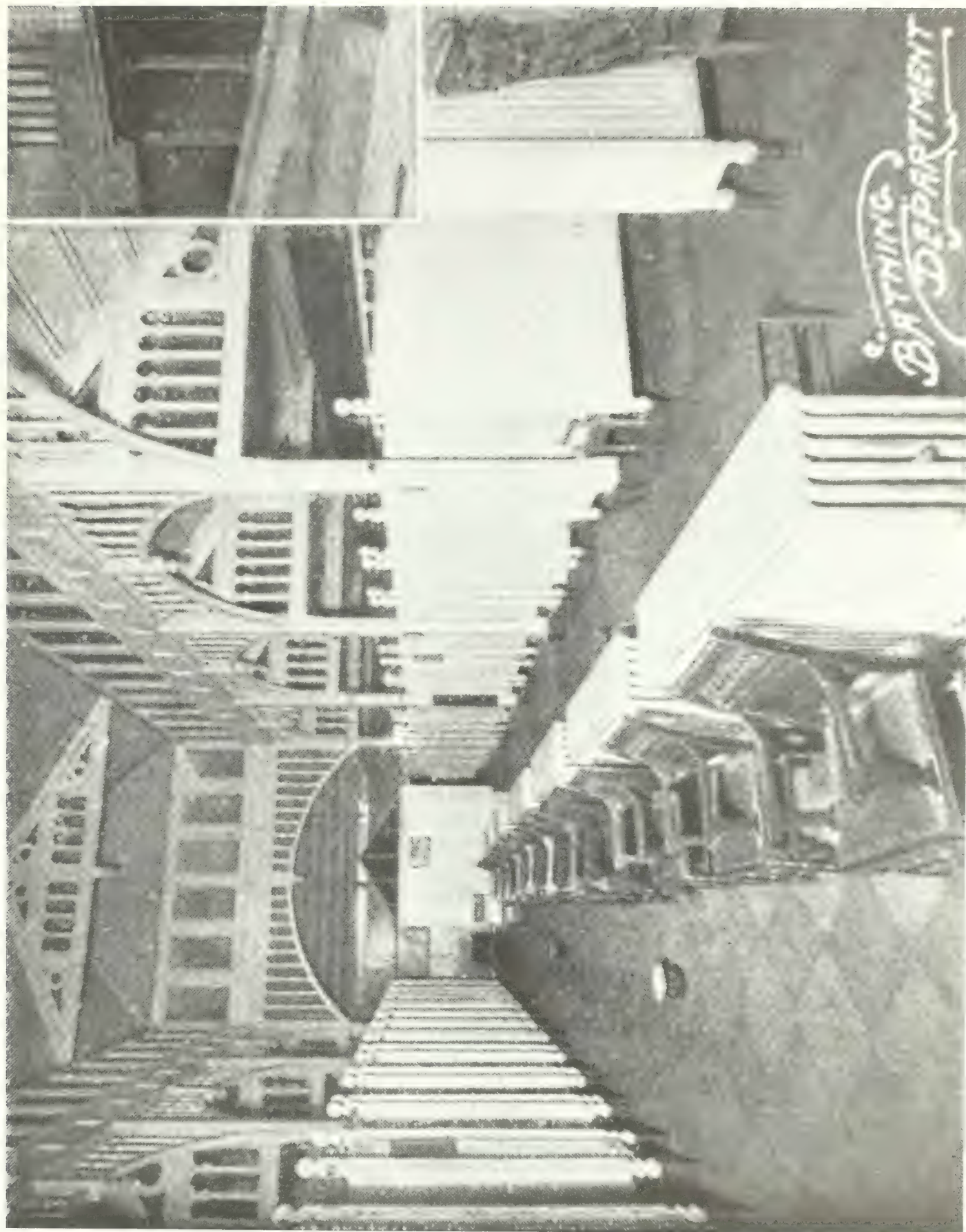


Figure 74. General view of department of electricity and massage in the Palace Bathhouse.

"Department of Electricity and Massage, Palace Bath House, Hot Springs, Arkansas," p. 1. Promotional literature published c. 1909. Courtesy of the National Archives, Record Group 79.



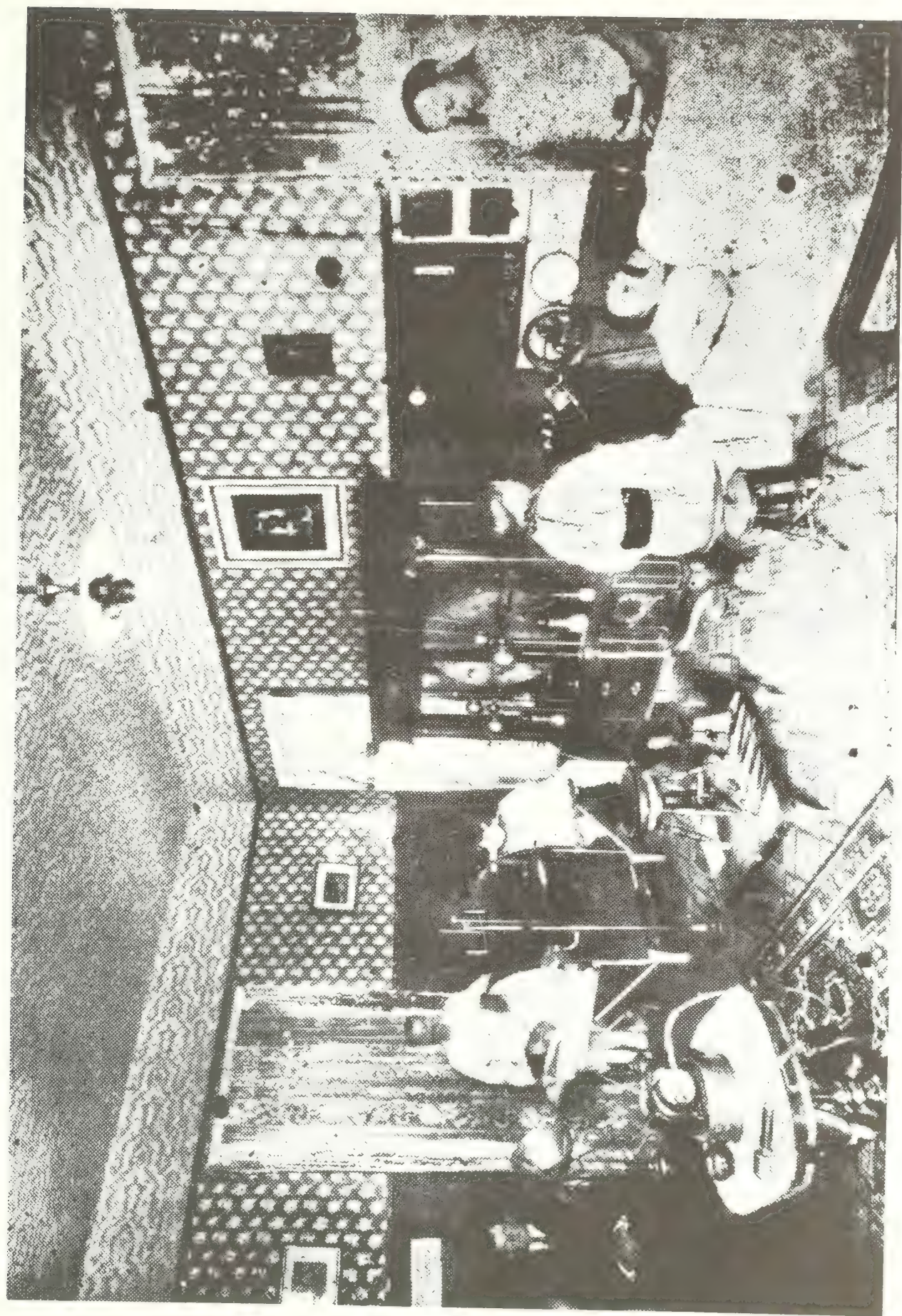


Figure 75. Massage department, supposedly in the Fordyce Bathhouse. This photograph actually portrays the massage department in the Palace Bathhouse, although it was used in an advertising brochure for the Fordyce. Several items were salvaged from this room for use in the Fordyce: the chair, the center table, the tissue oscillator, and probably other items.

"Fordyce Bath House," 1915, p. 15. Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park. The same photo appears in a newspaper advertisement for the Palace Electro-Massage Department, Scrapbook, item 1, Mary Hudgins Collection, Special Collection, University of Arkansas, no newspaper title or date (probably c.1909). Courtesy of Special Collections Department, University of Arkansas Library.



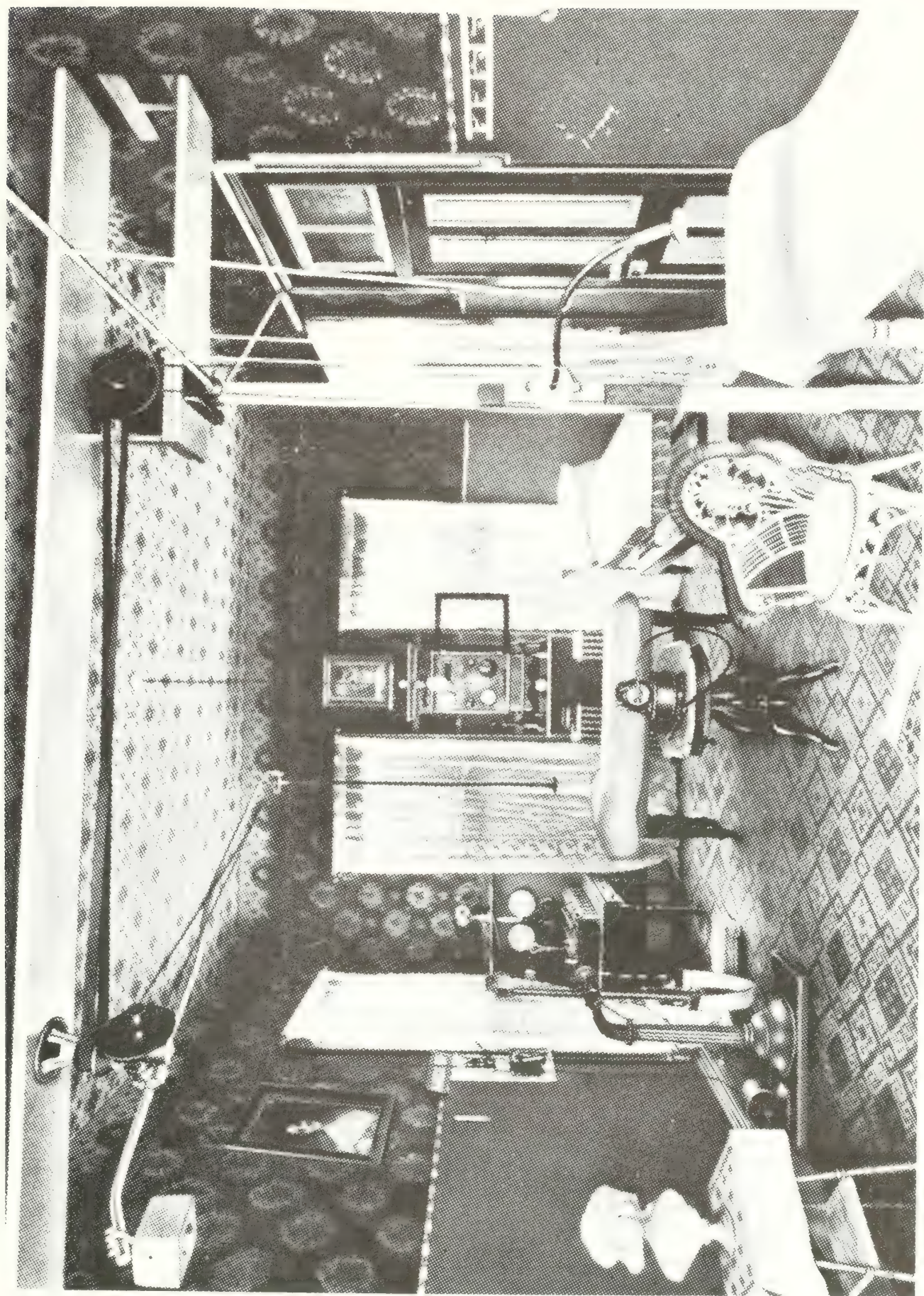


Figure 76. Ladies' Parlor in the Palace Bathhouse.

Charles Cutter and Sons, Cutter's Guide to Hot Springs, Arkansas, 1907, p. 31. Courtesy of the Special Collections Department, University of Arkansas Library.



*Indies Parlor*

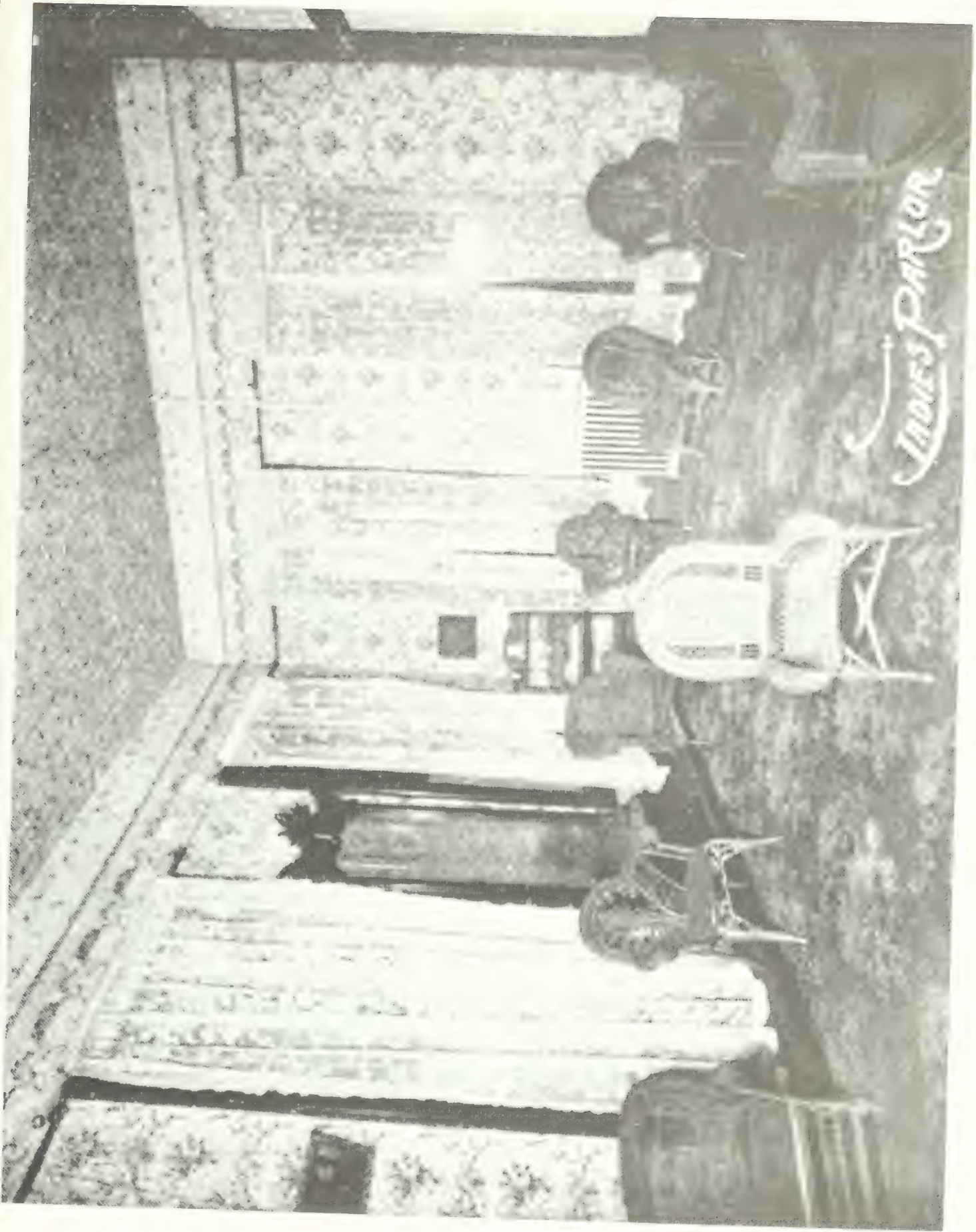


Figure 77. Gentlemen's Parlor in the Palace Bathhouse.

Charles Cutter and Sons, Cutter's Guide to Hot Springs, Arkansas, 1907, p. 31. Courtesy of the Special Collections Department, University of Arkansas Library.



GEORGE J. P. H. 1998

LOR



#### OTHER HOT SPRINGS BATHHOUSES

Figure 78. Advertisement for metal furniture manufactured by the Frank S. Betz Company of Hammond, Indiana. Note that the lounge in this advertisement is identical to those pictured in the pack and cooling rooms of the Fordyce Bathhouse.

"The Maurice: The Bath House Beautiful," c.1915, p. 18. Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.



## Betz Delivers the Goods

Three carloads (almost 500 pieces) of the finest electrically welded all steel white enameled furniture made by us for the Maurice Baths.



Mr. W. G. Maurice personally purchased samples of all steel white enameled furniture from four other concerns for the purpose of giving the different makes six months' severe test before placing this order. Each manufacturer understood that quality was what he wanted — price was no object.

## This is Why We Got the Order

*No concern in the world can compete with us on all steel electrically welded white enameled hospital, sanitarium, office or bathroom furniture*

**FRANK S. BETZ COMPANY**  
HAMMOND, INDIANA

Figure 79. Office and lobby of Buckstaff Baths.

"Buckstaff Baths," c.1915, p. 1 (of text). Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.

Figure 80. Office and lobby of Maurice Bathhouse.

Cutter's Guide to Hot Springs, 1915. Courtesy of Special Collections Department, University of Arkansas Library.



VIEW OF OFFICE



Figure 81. Postcard showing office and lobby of the Maurice Bathhouse, c.1916. Note that the Maurice has redecorated its lobby with the more fashionable wicker furniture.

Courtesy of Special Collections Department, University of Arkansas Library.

Figure 82. Office and "grand stairway" of the New Imperial Bathhouse.

Cutter's Guide to Hot Springs, 1916, p. 17. Courtesy of the Special Collections Department, University of Arkansas Library.





OFFICE



Figure 83. Office and lobby of Superior Bathhouse.

Cutter's Guide to Hot Springs, 1917, p. 18. Courtesy of the Special Collections Department, University of Arkansas Library.

Figure 84. A bathroom in the New Imperial Bathhouse. Note the spittoon handy by the side of the tub.

Cutter's Guide to Hot Springs, 1915, p. 17. Courtesy of the Special Collections Department, University of Arkansas Library.



Figure 85. A bathroom in the Maurice Bathhouse. Note that the chair in this photograph is very similar to the chair in the previous photograph from the New Imperial Bathhouse. Certain types of furnishings, especially the utilitarian metal furniture, were common to many bathhouses.

Cutter's Guide to Hot Springs, 1915, p. 21. Courtesy of the Special Collections Department, University of Arkansas Library.

Figure 86. Men's bath hall in the Buckstaff Bathhouse.

"The Hot Springs of Arkansas," Missouri Pacific-Iron Mountain Railroad brochure, 1914, p. 35. Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.





MEN'S BATH HALL, BUCKSTAFF BATHS

Figure 87. Men's bath hall in the Buckstaff Bathhouse.

Cutter's Guide to Hot Springs, 1916, p. 21. Courtesy of the Special Collections Department, University of Arkansas Library.

Figure 88. Postcard of men's bathing department in the Buckstaff Bathhouse, n.d.

Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.



Figure 89. Men's bath hall in the Maurice Bathhouse.

Cutter's Guide to Hot Springs, 1916, p. 19. Courtesy of the Sprcial  
Collections Department, University of Arkansas Library.

Figure 90. Men's bathing department in the Alhambra Bathhouse.

Cutter's Guide to Hot Springs, 1916, p. 25. Courtesy of the Special  
Collections Department, University of Arkansas Library.





Figure 91. Men's bath hall in the Hale Bathhouse.

Cutter's Guide to Hot Springs, 1916, p. 26. Courtesy of the Special Collections Department, University of Arkansas Library.

Figure 92. Men's bath hall in the Lamar Bathhouse.

Cutter's Guide to Hot Springs, 1916, p. 28. Courtesy of the Special Collections Department, University of Arkansas Library.



Figure 93. Men's bathing department in the Superior Bathhouse.

Cutter's Guide to Hot Springs, 1916, p. 19. Courtesy of the Special Collections Department, University of Arkansas Library.

Figure 94. Ladies' bath hall in the Buckstaff Bathhouse.

"Buckstaff Baths," c.1915, p. 6. Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.





LADIES' BATH HALL

Figure 95. Ladies' bathing department in the Alhambra Bathhouse.

Cutter's Guide to Hot Springs, 1916, p. 25. Courtesy of the Special Collections Department, University of Arkansas Library.

Figure 96. Ladies' bathing department in the Superior Bathhouse.

Cutter's Guide to Hot Springs, 1917, p. 19. Courtesy of the Special Collections Department, University of Arkansas Library.



Figure 97. "Nancy French takes internal and external treatment as she sips spring water during her tub." Women's bath hall, unknown bathhouse, c.1951. Nancy French's drinking water is held in a paper cup set in a cup holder. The attendant washes her with a bath mitt.

Stong, Phil, "Hot Springs," Holiday, January 1951, p. 41. Courtesy of the Special Collections Department, University of Arkansas Library.

Figure 98. Hydrotherapeutic department in the Buckstaff Bathhouse. The bathhouse is described as having a "hydro-therapeutic department for both sexes, where the following baths may be had: Cabinet Steam Bath, Sitz Bath, Cabinet Electric Bath, Shampoo Bath, Nauheim Bath, Scotch Douches, Turkish Bath, Salt Rubs, [and] Alcohol Rubs."

"Buckstaff Baths," c.1915, p. 14, 16-17. Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.





HYDRO-THERAPEUTIC DEPARTMENT

Figure 99. Another view of the hydrotherapeutic department, Buckstaff Bathhouse.

Cutter's Guide to Hot Springs, 1916, p. 21. Courtesy of the Special Collections Department, University of Arkansas Library.

Figure 100. Hydrotherapeutic department in the New Imperial Bathhouse.

Cutter's Guide to Hot Springs, 1915, p. 18. Courtesy of the Special Collections Department, University of Arkansas Library.

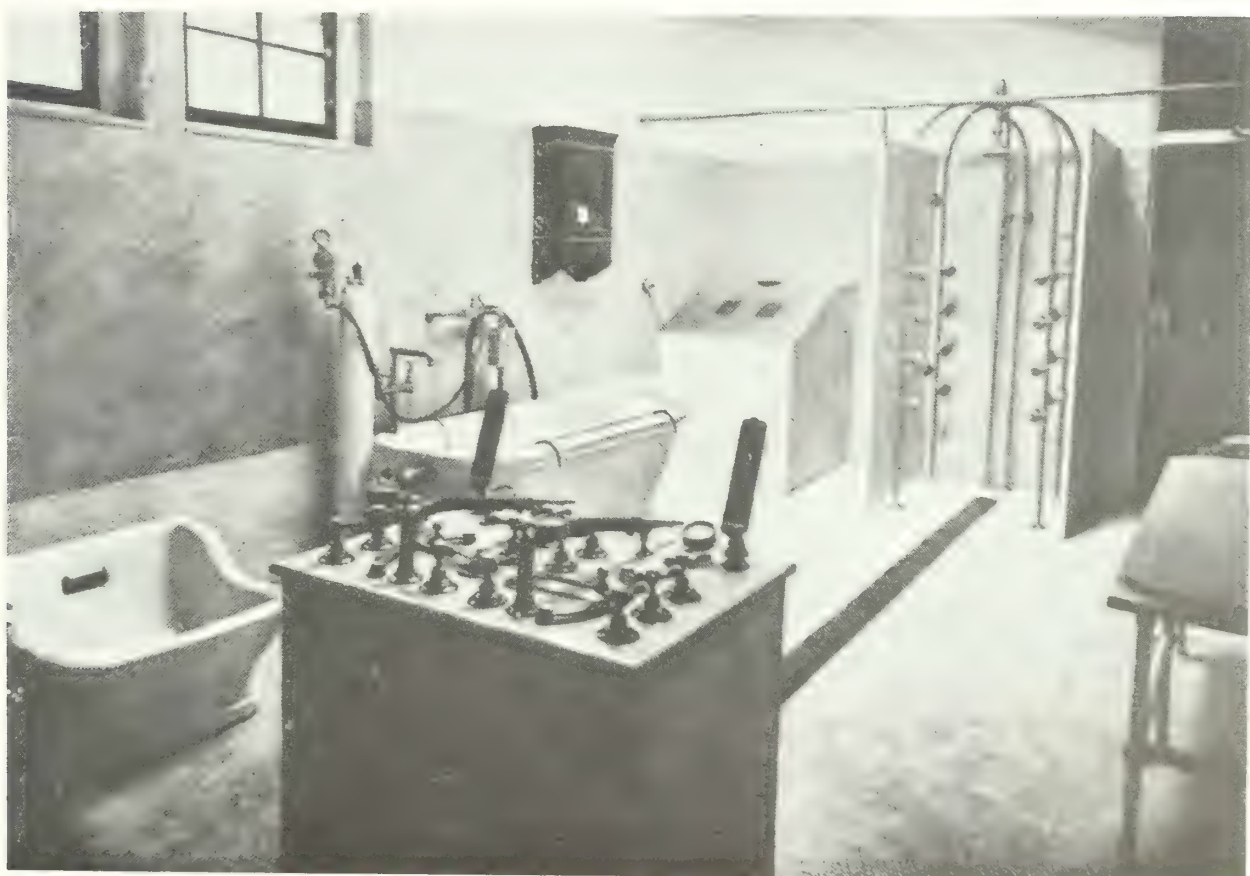


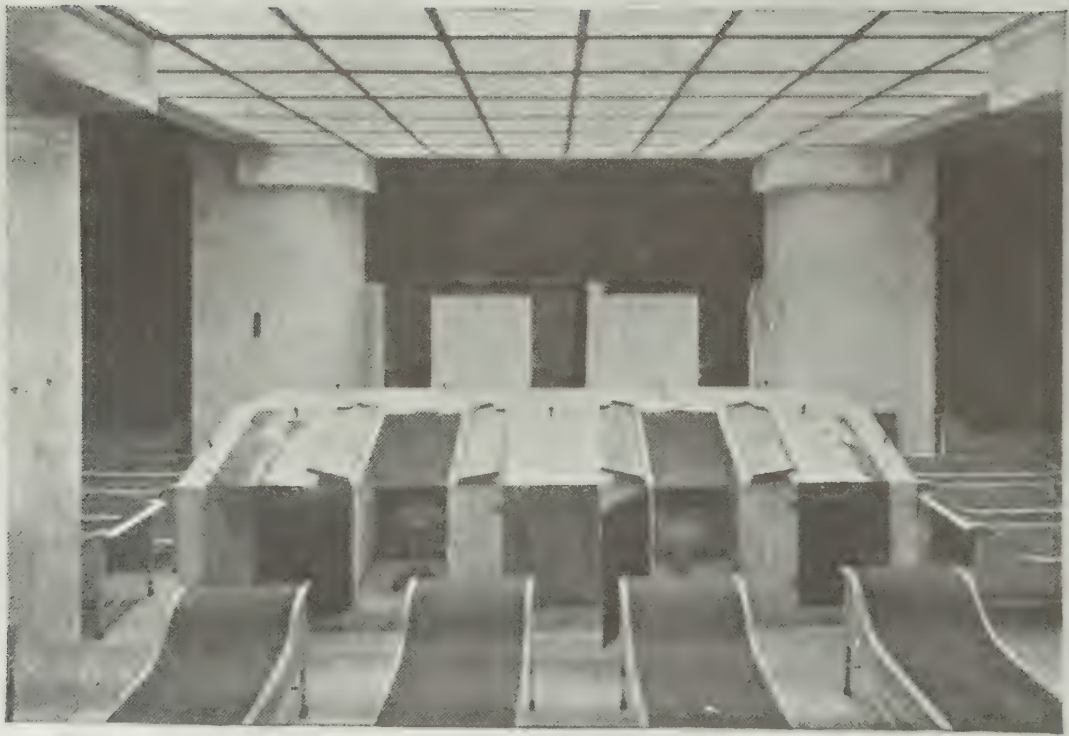
Figure 101. Steam cabinets in the men's bath hall, Buckstaff Bathhouse.  
In the Buckstaff, the steam cabinets were located in the bath halls.

"Buckstaff Baths," c.1915, p. 3. Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.

Figure 102. "After-Bath Sweat Room" in the New Imperial Bathhouse.  
Note the row of radiators along the left side of the room. The name of this room is misleading; this room may actually be a pack room.

Cutter's Guide to Hot Springs, 1915, p. 19. Courtesy of the Special Collections Department, University of Arkansas Library.





HOT CABINET—MEN'S BATH HALL



Figure 103. Cooling rooms in the Maurice Bathhouse. The sanitary metal furniture seen here was purchased from the same company that supplied the Fordyce Bathhouse.

Cutter's Guide to Hot Springs, 1915, p. 23. Courtesy of the Special Collections Department, University of Arkansas Library.

Figure 104. Men's dressing rooms in the Lamar Bathhouse. The solid wooden cubicle doors with sliding bolts found in the Fordyce were considered superior to the curtains supplied in these cubicles in the Lamar.

Cutter's Guide to Hot Springs, 1914, p. 27. Courtesy of the Special Collections Department, University of Arkansas Library.



Figure 105. Men's dressing rooms, Buckstaff Bathhouse.

"Buckstaff Baths," c.1915, p. 2. Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.

Figure 106. Ladies' dressing room, Buckstaff Bathhouse. These dressing cubicles were supplied with chairs instead of the bench seats used in the Fordyce.

"Buckstaff Baths," c.1915, p. 5. Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.





ONE OF THE MEN'S DRESSING ROOMS



LADIES' DRESSING ROOM

Figure 107. Ladies' dressing rooms in the New Imperial Bathhouse. The 1916 Cutter's Guide describes these dressing rooms on p. 17. "Dressing rooms for ladies are equipped with a mirror built in the tile wall, plate glass shelf, sanitary chair, hat and clothes hooks...."

Cutter's Guide to Hot Springs, 1915, p. 17. Courtesy of the Special Collections Department, University of Arkansas Library.

Figure 108. Postcard of the "Massage and Electrical Department," Maurice Bathhouse, n.d. Like the Fordyce Bathhouse, the Maurice Bathhouse provided massage and electrical therapy in one department and mechanical therapy in another (figure 112).

Courtesy of the Special Collections Department, University of Arkansas Library.

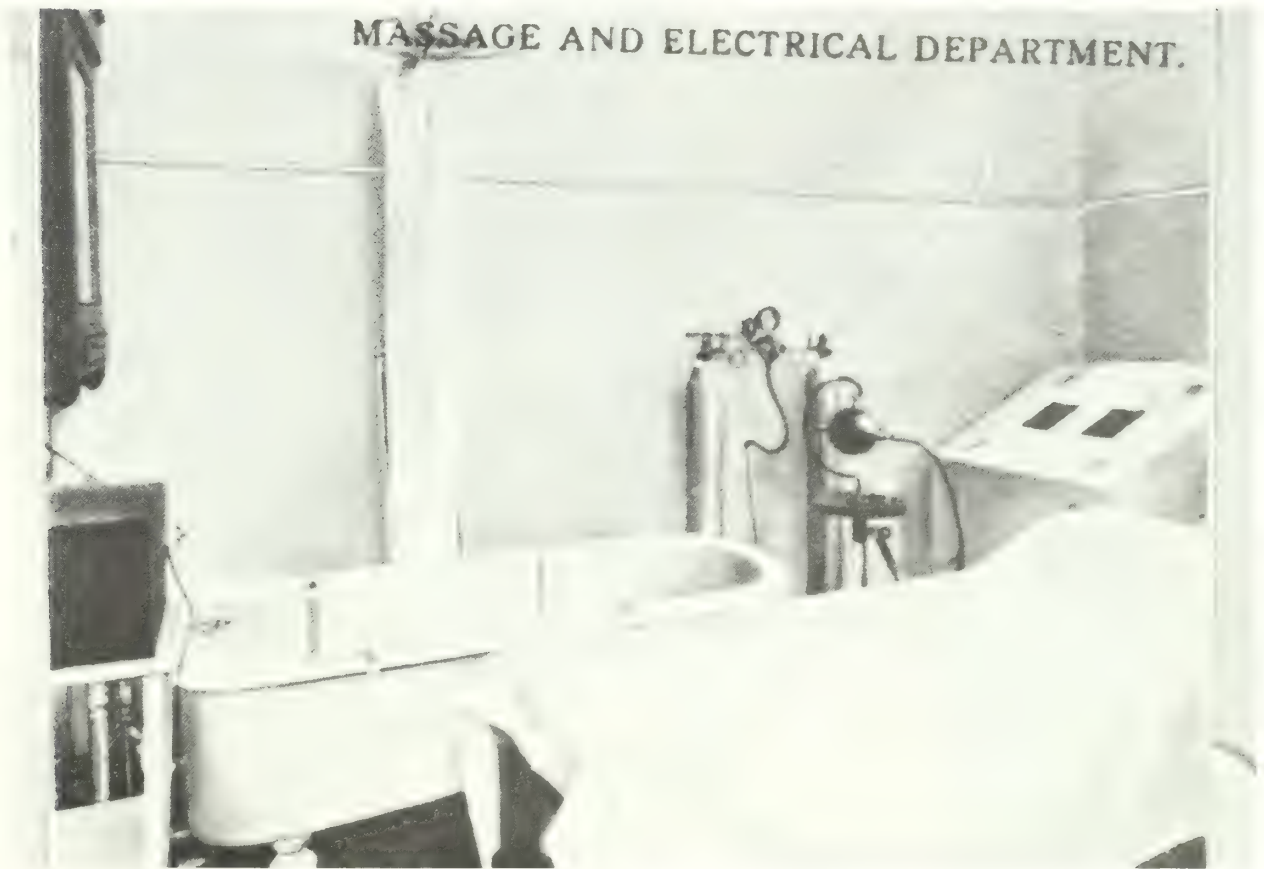


Figure 109. Massage department in the Buckstaff Bathhouse. The device for administering electric current hanging on the rear wall proves that electrical therapy was provided in the massage rooms at the Buckstaff.

"Buckstaff Baths," c.1915, p. 8. Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.

Figure 110. Massage room, probably Quapaw Bathhouse, c.1922-40. The Birtman Wall Cabinet on the wall on the left is identical to the one used in the Palace Bathhouse and similar to the one used in the hydrotherapy room in the Fordyce. The device on the table under the cabinet is an electric massage instrument, and the object on the small round stand between the massage tables is a vibrator.

Hot Springs photograph file. Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.





MASSAGE DEPARTMENT



Figure 111. "Massage, especially popular with dieters, is an extra feature in bathhouses." Massage room, unknown bathhouse, c.1951. The table behind the masseuse probably holds containers of massage oil, alcohol, and other ointments.

Stong, Phil, "Hot springs," Holiday, January 1951, p. 41. Courtesy of the Special Collections Department, University of Arkansas Library.

Figure 112. Postcard of the mechanical massage department in the Maurice Bathhouse, n.d. Note the mechanical horse and the oven for dry, hot bakes.

Courtesy of the Special Collections Department, University of Arkansas Library.



Figure 113. "Lounging Room and Sun Parlor," Buckstaff Bathhouse. The sun parlor is described on pp. 17-18 of the booklet "Buckstaff Baths."

The entire front of the third story is a sun parlor or lounging room. It is furnished in solid mahogany. Books, magazines, hot and cold drinking water and a piano make this an ideal place to lounge and rest up after the bath or a turn in the gymnasium. The sun parlor has white tile floor with red figure, heavy dark green rugs, mahogany furniture with dark green leather trimmings, lace curtains, green and gold window draperies and white walls. Each end of the sun parlor leads to the roof garden.

"Buckstaff Baths," c.1915, p. 13. Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.

Figure 114. Sun parlor, Lamar Bathhouse.

Cutter's Guide to Hot Springs, 1914, p. 27. Courtesy of the Special Collections Department, University of Arkansas Library.





LOUNGING ROOM AND SUN PARLOR



Figure 115. Sun parlor, Maurice Bathhouse. The sun parlor is described as "A Real Sun Parlor. The sun's glare through the massive glass dome is subdued by amber glass panels overhead, the walls of Caen stone, the floor of red Scotch tile. The soft amber glow is very beneficial and restful for those suffering from nervous troubles."

Cutter's Guide to Hot Springs, 1915, p. 21. Courtesy of the Special Collections Department, University of Arkansas Library.

Figure 116. Sun Parlor, Maurice Bathhouse, c.1916. When the third floor sun parlor in the Maurice became the "Dutch" Den, the sun porch on the first floor became known as the sun parlor.

From a postcard, c.1916. Courtesy of the Special Collections Department of the University of Arkansas Library. The same photo appears in the 1916 Cutter's Guide.





Figure 117. Ladies' writing room, Buckstaff Bathhouse. The Buckstaff provided its female patrons with writing desks and even a telephone.

"Buckstaff Baths," c.1915, p. 16. Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.

Figure 118. Parlor, Maurice Bathhouse, c.1916.

From a postcard, c.1916. Courtesy of the Special Collections Department of the University of Arkansas Library.





LADIES' WRITING ROOM



SUN PARLOR

PARLOR

Figure 119. "The Den" in the Maurice Bathhouse. The Maurice offered gentlemen facilities similar to those in the Fordyce:

This is the most unique and artistic room in America. The size is 25 x 60 ft., red tile floor, walnut wainscoting with art glass panel ceiling. The freize picture "Holland Life" is by the well known artist, Frederick Warnecke. The large, homey cobblestone fireplace and the comfortable Roycroft furnishings make it an ideal rest room. The croquet billiard table, latest magazines and the victrola furnish entertainment for our guests.

Cutter's Guide to Hot Springs, 1916, p. 19. Courtesy of the Special Collections Department, University of Arkansas Library.

Figure 120. Roycroft Den, Maurice Bathhouse, after 1916.

From a postcard, after 1916. Courtesy of the Special Collections Department of the University of Arkansas Library.

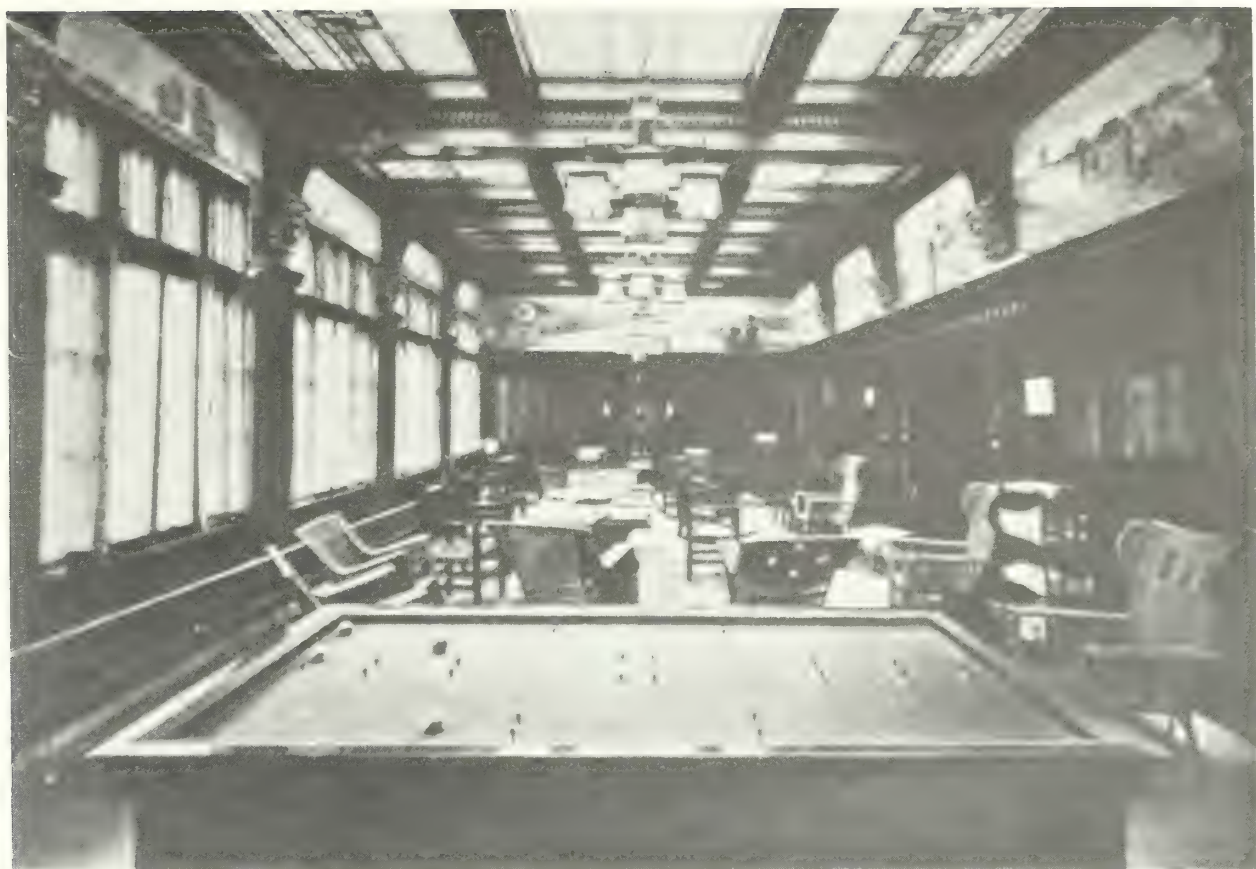




Figure 121. Billiard Room, Maurice Bathhouse, before 1930.

Postcard, before 1930. Courtesy of the Special Collections Department of the University of Arkansas Library.

Figure 122. Beauty parlor in the Buckstaff Bathhouse. Cut flowers and plants decorate the Buckstaff's beauty parlor.

"Buckstaff Baths," c.1915, p. 12. Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.





BEAUTY PARLOR

Figure 123. Gymnasium, Buckstaff Bathhouse. This gym was equipped with "vibratory chairs, mechanical horse, trunk shaker, striking bag, rowing machine, Indian clubs, dumbbells, medicine balls, pulley weights, boxing gloves and wrestling mat."

"Buckstaff Baths," c.1915, pp. 11 and 17. Courtesy of Hot Springs National Park.

Figure 124. Postcard of gymnasium in the Maurice Bathhouse, before 1930. The Maurice "gymnasium is 25 x 90 ft. with regulation size boxing ring, double sets of the most modern apparatus."

Courtesy of the Special Collections Department, University of Arkansas Library.



GYMNASIUM



## SPA THERAPY EQUIPMENT

Figure 125. Oven for dry and hot bake. This oven appears in the photograph of the mechanotherapy room in the Fordyce Bathhouse (see figure 45).

"Department of Electricity and Massage, Palace Bath House, Hot Springs, Arkansas," p. 13. Promotional literature published c.1909. Courtesy of the National Archives, Record Group 79.

Figure 126. Electric light bath cabinet. This electric light bath cabinet is of a slightly older style than the one used in the Fordyce hydrotherapy room (see figure 28).

Charles S. Potts, M.D. Electricity, Its Medical and Surgical Applications, Including Radiotherapy and Phototherapy (Philadelphia and New York: Lea and Febinger, 1911), p. 283.



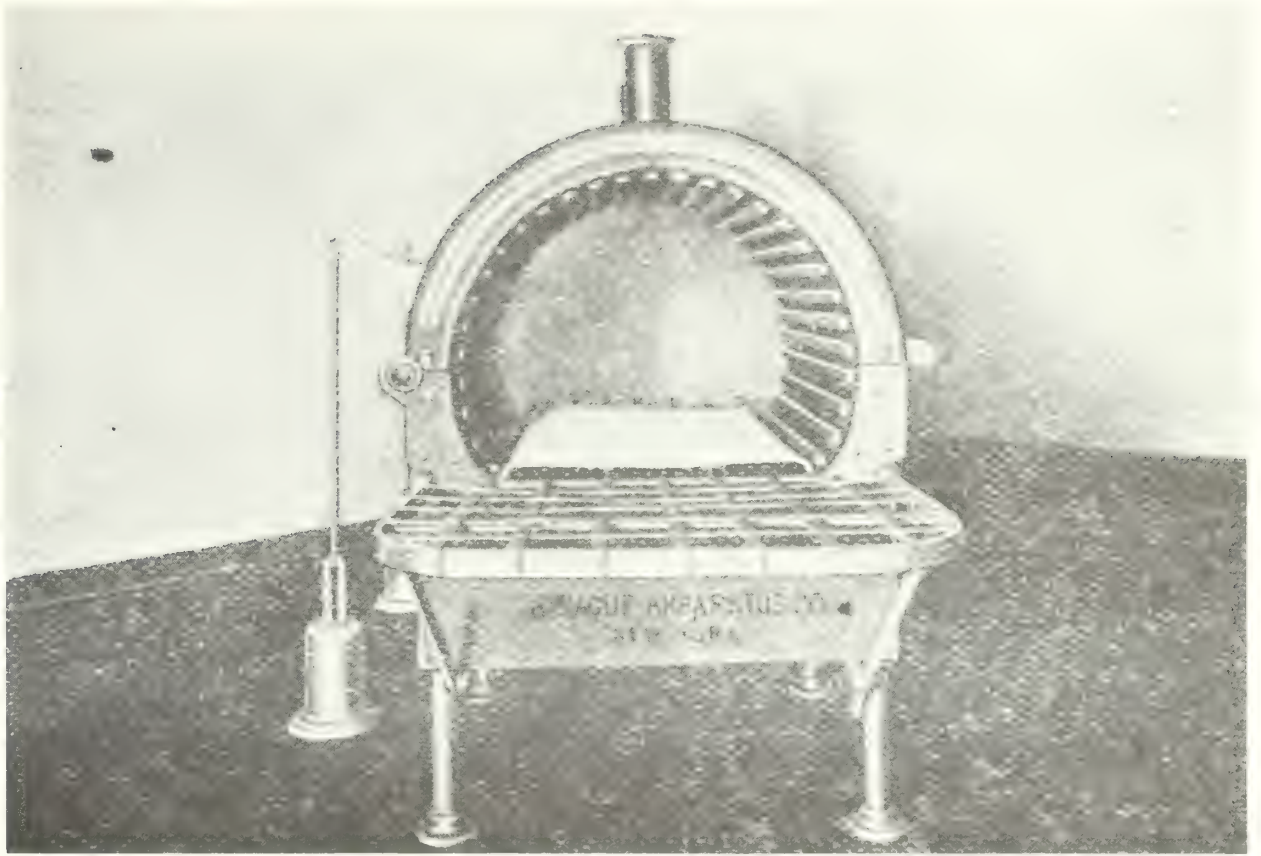
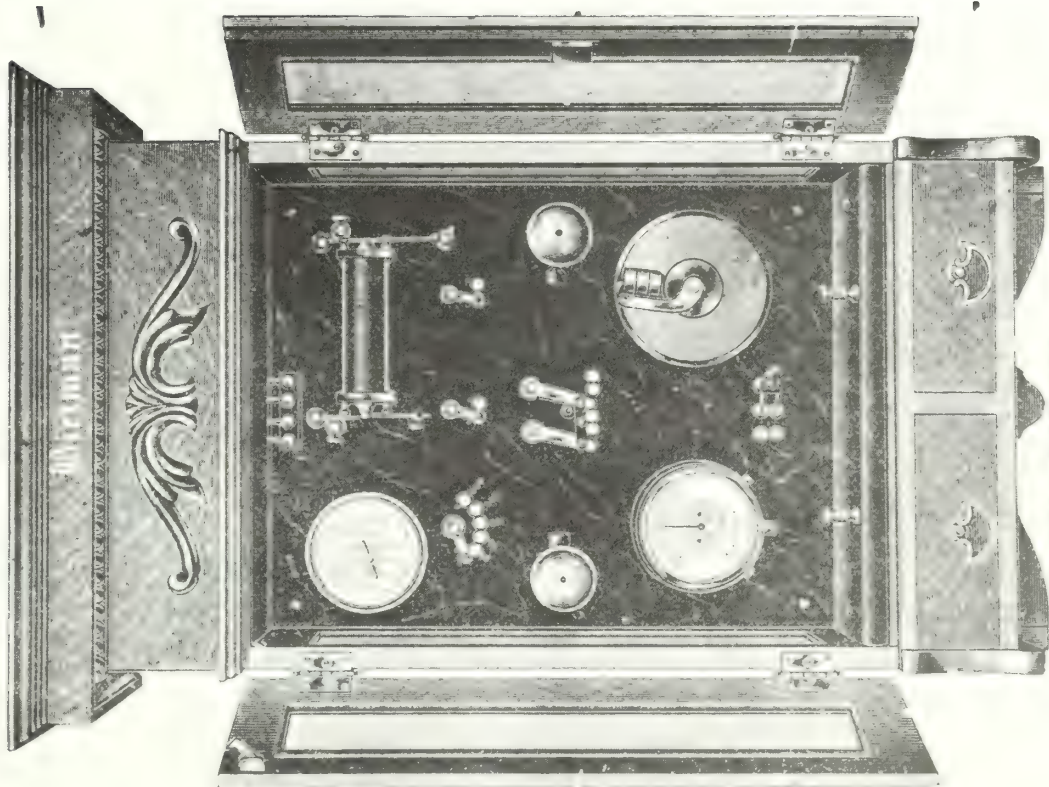


Figure 127. Photophore. This photophore is designed for use on arms or legs.

J.H. Kellogg, Rational Hydrotherapy (Philadelphia: F.A. Davis Company, 1910), facing p. 707, figure 138.

Figure 128. Birtman Wall Cabinet. This apparatus supplied a variety of electrical currents for use in electrotherapy and was used in the Palace and Quapaw Bathhouses. A similar device was mounted on the wall in the hydrotherapy room of the Fordyce Bathhouse. Other Cabinets probably were used in the massage rooms on the second and third floor.

"Department of Electricity and Massage, Palace Bath House, Hot Springs, Arkansas," p. 10. Promotional literature published c.1909. Courtesy of the National Archives, Record Group 79.



WALL CABINET.

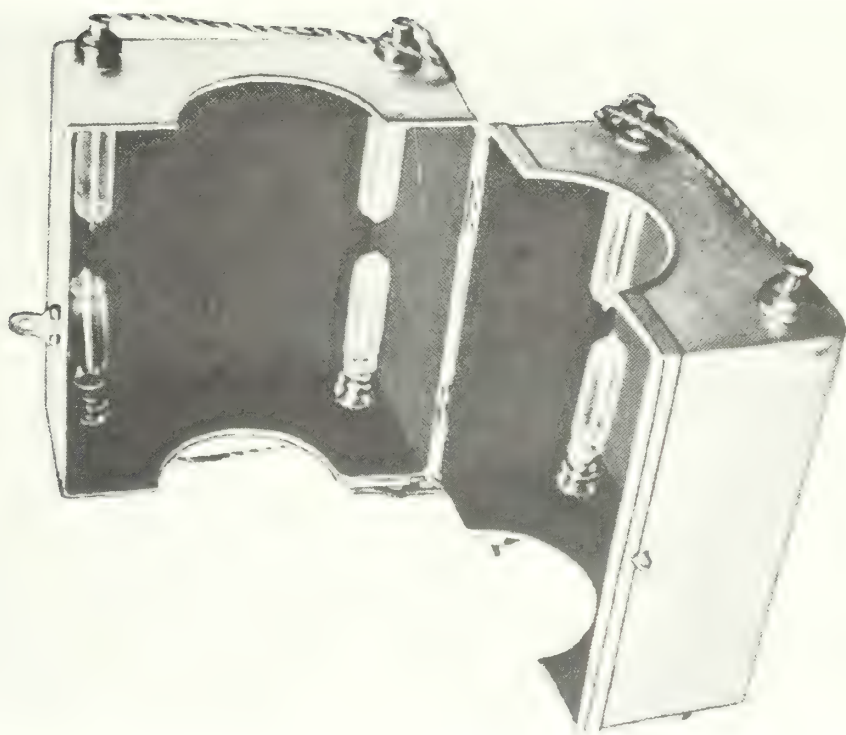


Figure 129. Various Electrodes.

George W. Jacoby and J. Ralph Jacoby, Electricity in Medicine (Philadelphia: P. Blakiston's Son & Co., 1919), p. 161, figure 141.

Figure 130. Static Machine. This static machine, or one very similar, stood in the Fordyce mechanotherapy room (see figure 45).

"Department of Electricity and Massage, Palace Bath House, Hot Springs, Arkansas," p. 11. Promotional literature published c.1909. Courtesy of the National Archives, Record Group 79.



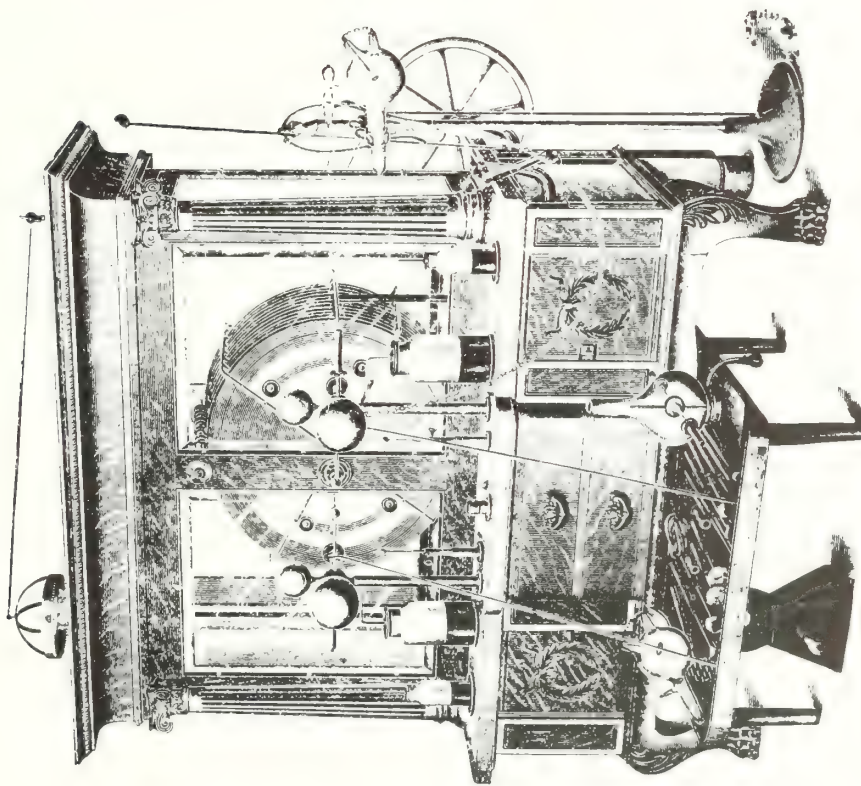


PLATE STATIC MACHINE X RAY AND OZONE INHALER.

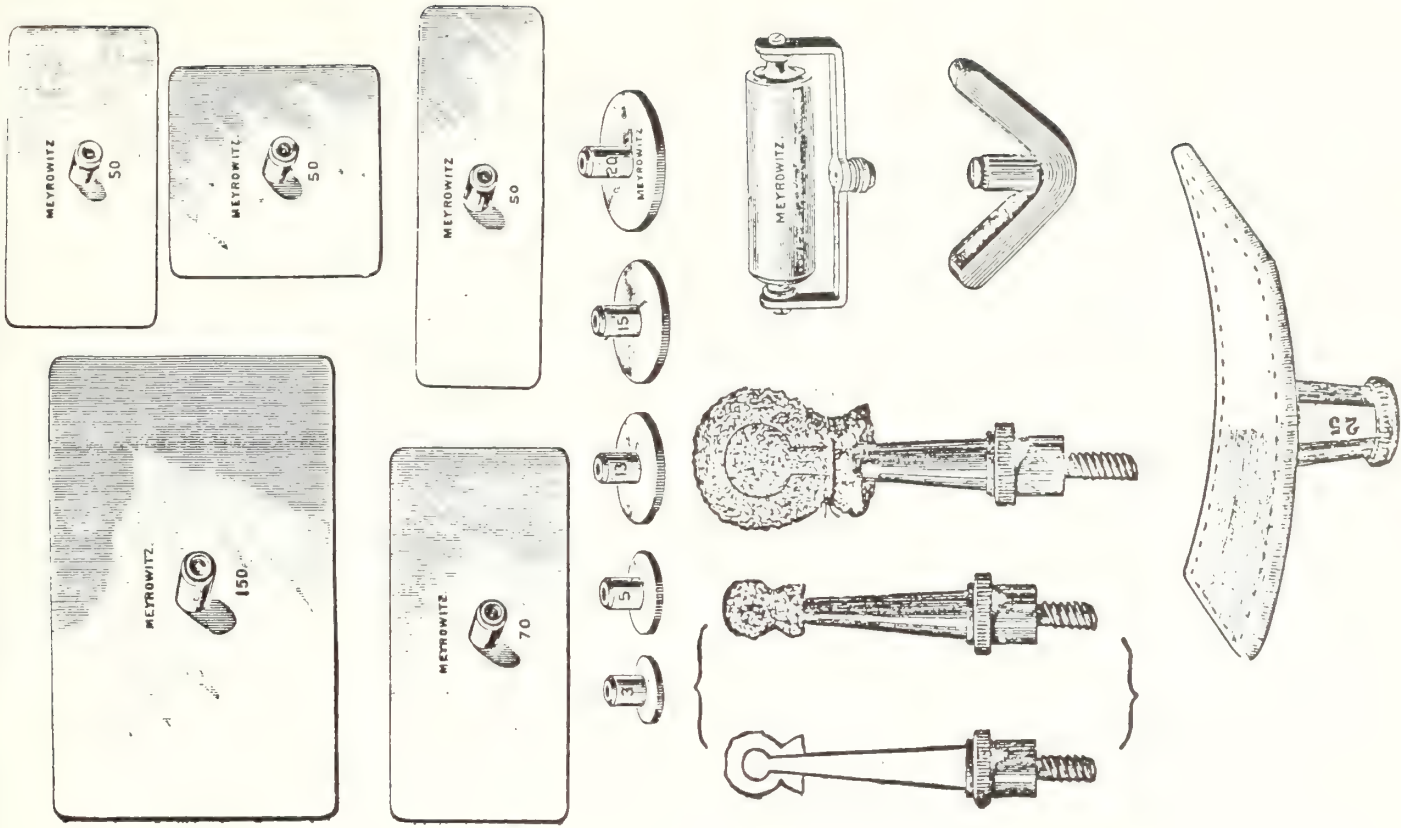


Figure 131. A turning pole.

Archibald Maclaren, A System of Physical Education (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1869), p. 440.

Figure 132. A giant stride.

Henry Suder, Manual of Gymnastics on Apparatus (Chicago Public Schools, publisher, 1911), p. 37.

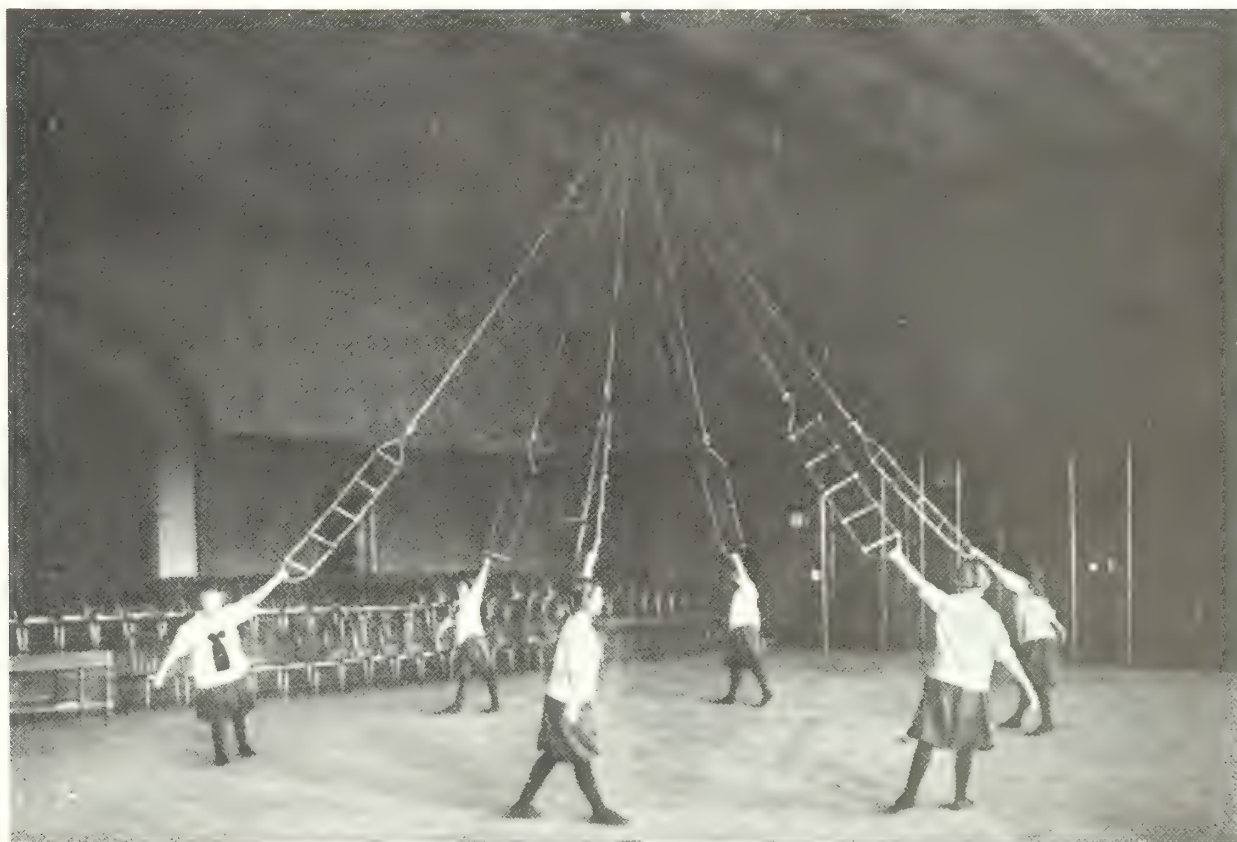
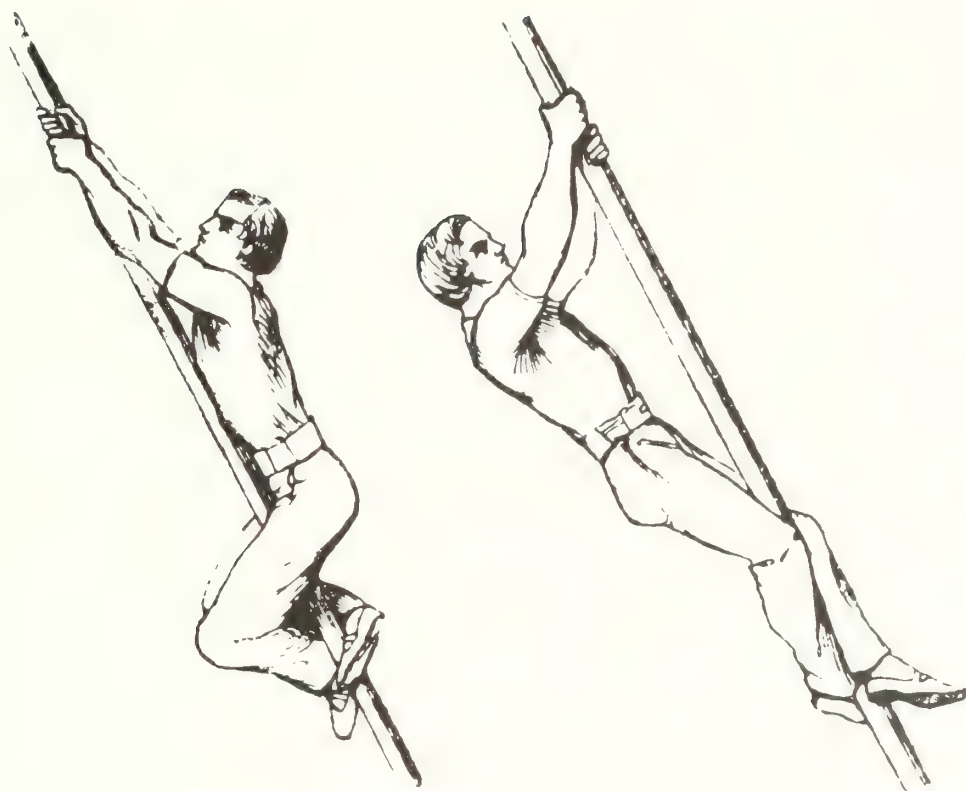


Figure 133. The hydroelectric bath.

J.H. Kellogg, Rational Hydrotherapy (Philadelphia: F.A. Davis Company, 1910), figure 241, opposite p. 945.

Figure 134. The salt glow treatment.

J.H. Kellogg, Rational Hydrotherapy (Philadelphia: F.A. Davis Company, 1910), figure 241, opposite p. 945.





Figure 135. The sitz bath.

George Knapp Abbott, Principles and Practice of Hydrotherapy (Loma Linda, CA: The College Press, 1914), plate XXXVIII, opposite p. 436.

Figure 136. Apparatus for spray baths and douches.

J.H. Kellogg, Rational Hydrotherapy (Philadelphia: F.A. Davis Company, 1910), figure 241, opposite p. 945.

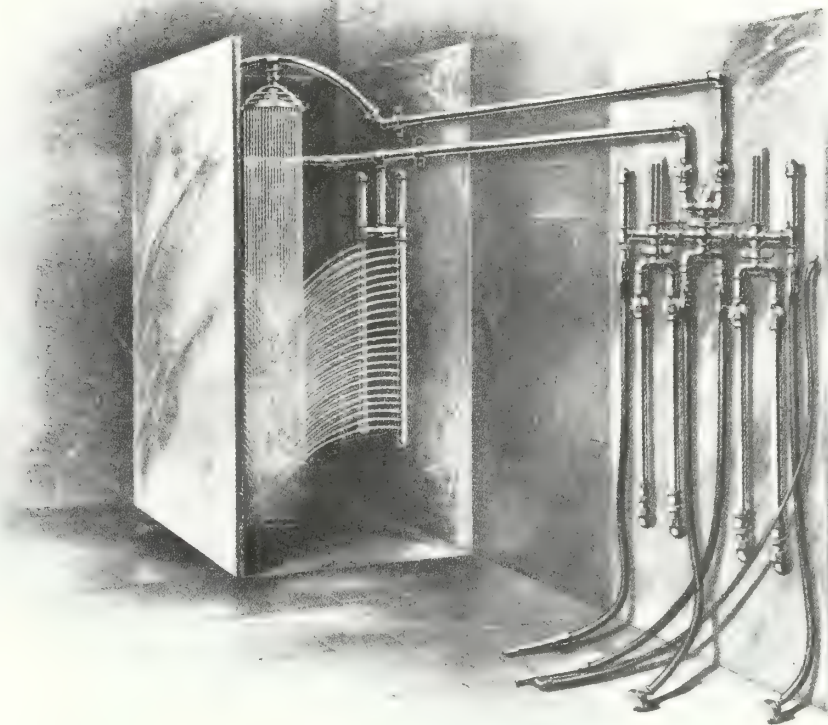


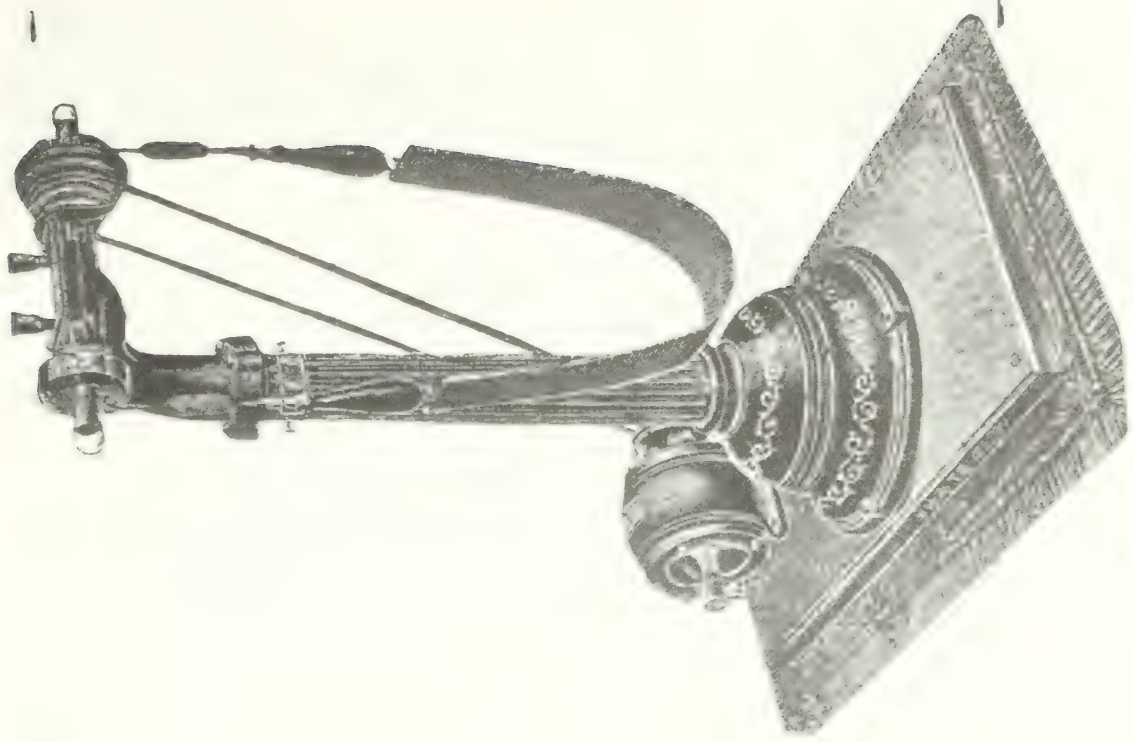
Figure 137. Tissue oscillator. This machine also appears in the photograph of the Fordyce mechanotherapy room (see fig. 45).

"Department of Electricity and Massage, Palace Bath House, Hot Springs, Arkansas," 1909, p. 8. Courtesy of the National Archives, Record Group 79.

Figure 138. Steam cabinets for head-out vapor baths.

George Knapp Abbott, Principles and Practice of Hydrotherapy (Loma Linda, CA: The College Press, 1914), plate XLII, opposite p. 450.





TISSUE OSCILLATOR.

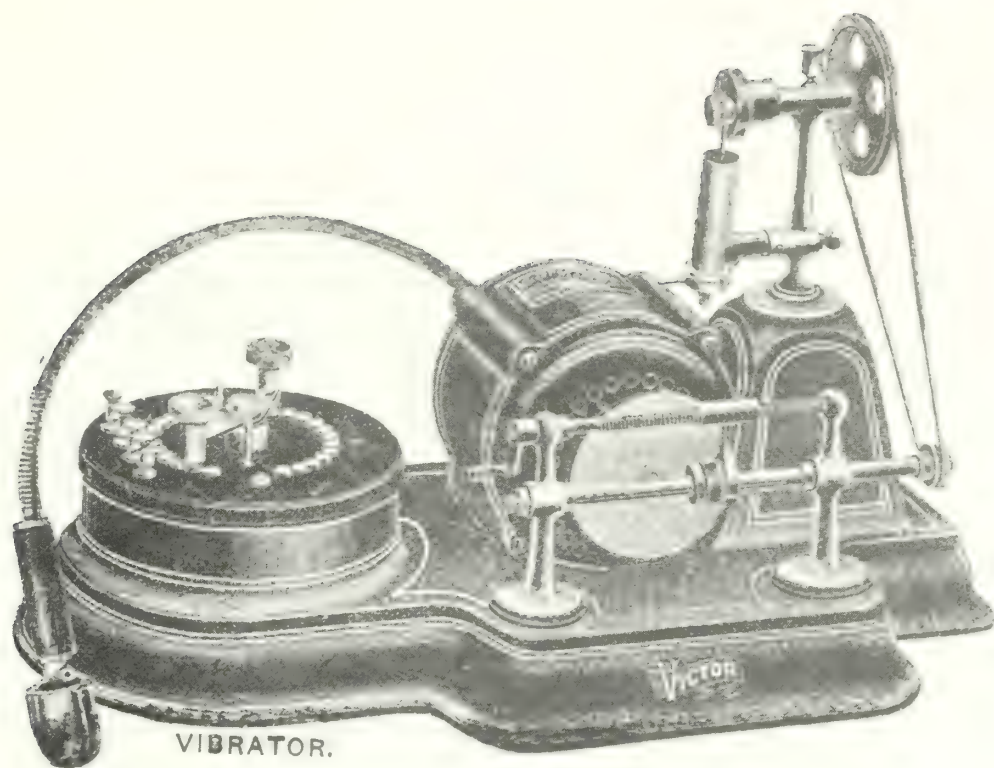


Figure 139. Vibrator. Similar machines can be seen in the photograph of the Fordyce mechanotherapy room (see figure 45).

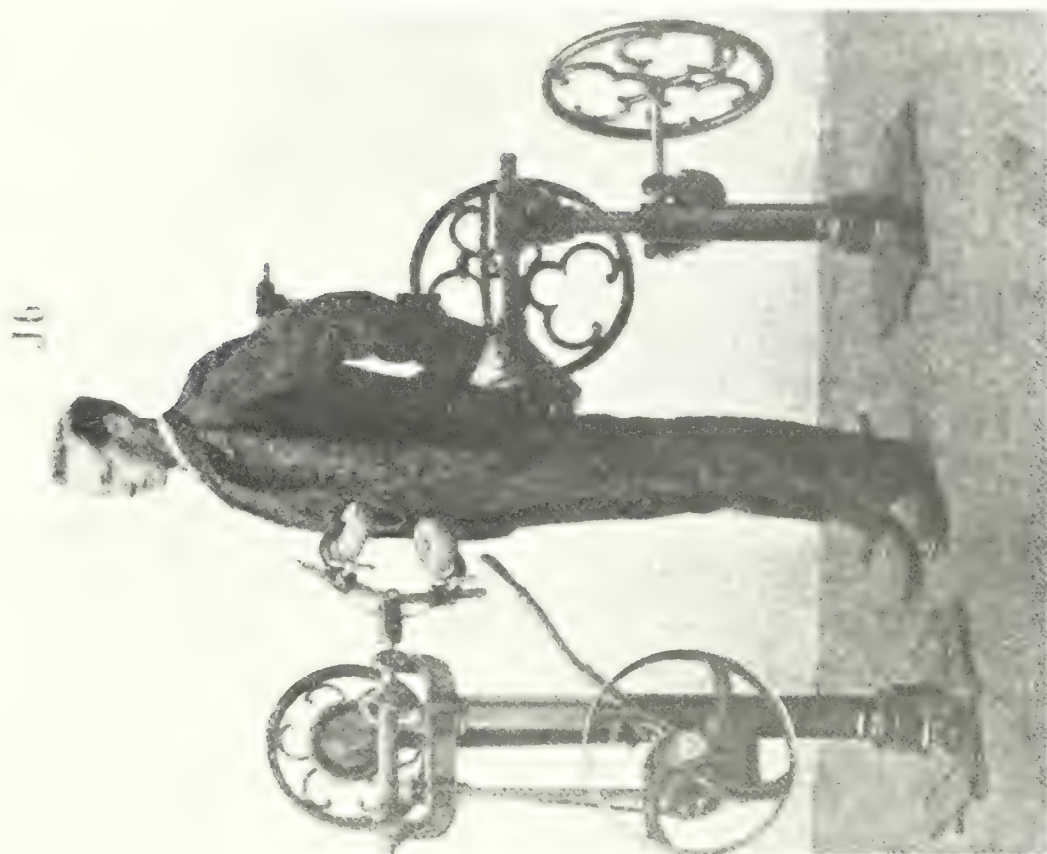
"Department of Electricity and Massage, Palace Bath House, Hot Springs, Arkansas," 1909, p. 9. Courtesy of the National Archives, Record Group 79.

Figure 140. Zander machine for abdominal massage.

John K. Mitchell, Mechanotherapy and Physical Education, A System of Physiologic Therapeutics, ed. Solomon Solis Cohen (Philadelphia: P. Blakiston's Son & Co., 1904), fig. 45, p. 133.



VIBRATOR.



16

Figure 141. Zander machine for chest movement.

John K. Mitchell, Mechanotherapy and Physical Education, A System of Physiologic Therapeutics, ed. Solomon Solis Cohen (Philadelphia: P. Blakiston's Son & Co., 1904), fig. 46, p. 134.







## APPENDIX I

Statement showing the total cost of the building, furnishings and equipment of the Fordyce Bathhouse, Hot Springs Arkansas; July 1, 1916; Private collection of family papers belonging to John R. Fordyce, III, Little Rock, AR.

STATEMENT  
SHOWING THE TOTAL COST OF THE  
BUILDING, FURNISHING AND EQUIPMENT OF THE  
F O R D Y C E B A T H H O U S E.  
HOT SPRINGS ARKANSAS.

BUILDING FUND.....	\$230,402.66
Wrecking.....	482.79
Excavating.....	3412.18
Foundation.....	2699.58
Steel Reinforcing.....	4014.68
Concrete.....	5748.29
Lumber.....	3076.99
Mill Work, (doors, dressing rooms etc.)	8740.34
Carpenter Work.....	6335.47
Brick Structure.....	17040.59
Finishing Stone.....	1746.00
Terra Cotta.....	4534.88
Steel Structure.....	2150.03
Roof (Tile, Concrete, Tar & Gravel).....	2032.12
Clay & Tile Partitions.....	1982.34
Plastering.....	6575.29
Marble & Tile.....	21622.21
Marble Benches.....	602.80
De Soto Fountain.....	988.01
Painting.....	4373.40
Hardware.....	1662.99
Glass, (Art, Plate etc.).....	2074.46
Sheet Metal.....	2489.33
Marquee.....	2170.77
Plumbing Heating and Ventilating.....	34582.22
Corrections To Plumbing.....	4388.39
Corrections To Cool Water System.....	441.80
Refrigerator Plant.....	1804.90
Water Tanks.....	3309.02
Electrical Work.....	5425.84
Iron Stair Rail, and Elevator Inclosure	2969.68
Elevator.....	3094.00
General Construction.....	112865.46
Screens.....	836.48
Awnings.....	79.00
Robe Lockers.....	1260.00
Valuable Lock Boxes.....	847.60
Coat, Hat and Umbrella Lock Racks.....	239.75
Bowling Alleys and supplies.....	970.41
Gymnasium Equipment.....	832.87
Electro-Mechanical Equipment.....	2538.39
Mercury Department.....	41.54
Furniture (all discription).....	7898.57
Insurance, Building and Workman's.....	1408.42
Architects... (Mann & Stearn).....	7000.00
Supervision.. John R. Fordyce.....	10000.00
Atty's Fee... W. T. Curtis.....	350.00
General Supplies( Linen etc).....	660.29
TOTAL COST BUILDING, FURNISHING..	\$219,400.17
Cash on Hand.....	2.49
Water Lease Valued.....	25,000.00
TOTAL INVESTMENT.....	\$235,402.66
	\$230,402.66

Respectfully Submitted:--

*John F. Manner*



## APPENDIX II

Letter from George R. Mann and Eugene J. Stern, Architects, to Dr. William P. Parks, Superintendent, regarding changes made during construction of the Fordyce Bathhouse; February 10, 1915; Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

"COPY"

Gazette Bldg.  
Phone 2911

George R. Mann  
Eugene J. Stern  
A r c h i t e c t s.

Little Rock  
Arkansas.

February  
Tenth  
19 15.

RE-Fordyce Bath-house

Dr. Parks, Superintendent,  
U. S. Reservation,  
Hot Springs, Arkansas

Dear Sir:-

During the construction of the above building it was found necessary to make various changes, and we are sending you by express one set of plans as originally approved by the Interior Department and blue prints of the different floors showing how the building was actually arranged during construction.

The changes from the approved plans, generally, have been as follows:-

BASEMENT PLAN-Attendants Room lowered to same level as Public Lobby.

Spring Room changed.

Pump, strainer, and motor moved to room next to plenum chamber.

FIRST FLOOR---Linen closet omitted, shower relocated, room enlarged, and drinking fountain changed in Men's Cooling Room.

Marble partitions omitted in Cabinet Room.

Vapor and head exposed cabinets interchanged in Womens Bath Hall.

Drinking fountain changed in Women's Pack Room.

Drinking fountains added in Women's and Men's Cooling room.

SECOND FLOOR--Waiting room and Department of Mechano-Therapy added over Men's Bath Hall in front of cooling tanks.

Dr. P. #2

SECOND FLOOR--Dressing stalls relocated in Men's and  
(Contd) Women's Dressing Rooms.

Linen closets changed in Dressing rooms.

Men's massage room changed to men's Mercury room.

Dressing Rooms next to elevator changed to closets.

Linen cabinets added to each end of Men's Dressing Room over Lobby.

Drinking fountains placed in both Men's and Women's Cooling Room.

THIRD FLOOR-- Gymnasium increased in width.

Shower and Toilet omitted in Men's Private Dressing Room.

Plan of Men's and Women's private dressing rooms changed.

Floors changed from tile to wood in dressing Rooms.

Men's Mercury Room changed to Library.

We trust that you will see fit to recommend to the Interior Department the approval of the changes made.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) E. J. Stern

Mann & Stern, Architects.

EJS-R





### APPENDIX III

Memorandum to Superintendent Thomas J. Allen from Assistant Superintendent George C. Bolton, regarding inspection of the Fordyce Bathhouse prior to lease renewal; August 27, 1934; Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

HOT SPRINGS NATIONAL PARK,  
Hot Springs, Ark.,  
August 27, 1934.

Memorandum to:-

Superintendent Thos. J. Allen,

Today with Mr. Cross and Mr. Emerson, we made inspection of the Fordyce Bathhouse in connection with recommendation for extension of lease for hot waters from Hot Springs National Park. We find -

Exterior of Building:

Front elevation and sides needs cleaning badly. The type of brick used in this house lends to ready cleaning by washing down. Sills and framing of windows need painting very badly.

Rear elevation on account of previous arrangements for tanks and pipes presents a condition not acceptable to this office on account of the Promenade development. It is recommended that a wall be built as a screen to the unacceptable rear view and to close in the tanks and necessary piping. It will be necessary to have window or lighting apertures in this wall to take care of the lighting in the bathhall and hydro rooms on the first floor of the house.

Roof:- Flashing is loose in many places and some repairs for leakage seem necessary. An old and unsightly baffle board cooling apparatus and tank occupies part of this space. The old structure is in bad repair and should be torn down and replaced at another point. Just where this might be is difficult to advise. There is a chance of placing it over the bathhall as in the case of the Maurice, but that would tend to darken the bathhall on the Men's side of the house and it may be a question as to whether or not the old type cooling system would operate at that point on account of being surrounded by the building and difficulty of cooking the water on account of bad circulation of air for that reason. To grant space and insist on its construction as was contemplated some time ago when the Quapaw and the Ozark were compelled to build their tanks adjacent to the Army & Navy Hospital line would also be objectionable on account of contemplated improvement by the Promenade. The construction of a central cooling plant would eliminate all the unsightly structures used for cooling water in the rear of the bathhouses.

Interior:- Basement- Inspection discloses that there is a bit of seepage from the rear walls. This condition has existed for a long while but there might be a danger of its continuance to the main foundations. Cracks showing in plaster on first floor show that there is a tendency to settle. The attendants quarters are badly located and do not allow of much improvement with the exception of perhaps new plastering. There is a bowling alley here of two alleys which is out of repair and not used. I would recommend that these alleys be taken out and the space used for attendants quarters, using the present space occupied by these quarters as storage space. There is a display hot spring in this basement. When the features contemplated in the promenade are existent there will not be need for this spring or visits by the bathers or prospective bathers to the basement at all. If the spring is allowed to be used as a display then of course the proximity of the Attendants quarters might be objectionable. I would recommend closing out the spring as a display

feature at this bathhouse. Painting and plastering throughout is needed in this basement to bring it up to standard. It is noted that the concrete work in overhead supporting beams to the first floor appear to be of an inferior grade of concrete work. Similar work in the LaMar was the cause of contractor Wic Wickes paying the Management of the LaMar for alleged damages from blasting with 1/3d to 1/2 stick dynamite in the hole necessary for the construction of our pumping chamber. Machinery seems to be o.k.- Ice Machine might be removed.

First floor:- On account of the financial situation at this house not much maintenance work has been done during the last two years. The house shows it, altho' some effort has been made to paint up a cooling room. The wall clocks in this house have been allowed to deteriorate badly and should be replaced throughout. The plumbing fixtures have been repaired again and again, this especially in the showers which should all be placed in excellent condition. A larger and more efficient pack tub with a rest should be installed in place of the one now used. The hot room-should be brightened up, the outside lighting now coming from a rear window is very poor on account of the condition of the glass in the outside window. This is one of the places necessitating an opening in the wall screening mentioned in second paragraph of this report. Toilets are in fair condition but changing from the old model to new model seats would help. The cooling room on first floor in the women's section should be brightened up with new furniture. This should be in the form of metal cots and chairs. In fact one of the things tending to dim the possibilities in this house is the old style and unsanitary equipment, furniture, found in all the cooling rooms. The old style upholstered furniture must give place to more sanitary equipment. It is recommended that the downstairs office space be not used as a lounge as at present using the outside porch under the metal canopy during the seasonable weather and the front upstairs dressing room instead. This room seems to me to be superfluous under the present circumstances. There are too many dressing booths throughout the mens side of this house. If this room is not to be converted to use as a lounge, there are possibilities of its use as a place for children to be placed under the care of a maid while their parents are taking the baths. An assortment of toys and a sand pile here might develop into a feature. There is a call for some place for the kids. All bathhouses have a problem on their hands handling them.

All the walls, partitions and window openings and windows need paint. There is some little plastering repair work. The hydro room is used by both patrons from the men and women's side of the house. There should be a door at the entrance on the men's side to insure privacy to the women when they are using it. All fixtures should be gone over and placed in repair. The vapor cabinet room off the men's bathhall needs going over. This is one of the poorest spots in the whole building. I would recommend that another Sitz bath be authorized for the men's side and one for the women's side. I also recommend that should these be approved that the one on the mens side be placed on the extreme right of the vapor cabinets and that the whole system of Sitz baths and Cabinets be painted, with the exception of course of the Sitz tubs.

Second floor:- With the exception of the need of painting throughout and old style equipment this floor could stand as it is with the exception of perhaps using the front dressing room on the Men's side as a lounge which would necessitate the removal of a lot of dressing booths which seem to me to be too plentiful.



Third Floor:- On the women's side and off the lounge there is a beauty parlor. This should be brought up to date in the matter of equipment. On the other end of the lobby there is an office room which I believe is used by Col. Fordyce. There is also a display of Indian Relics in the Lounge room which is interesting, but I do not believe it belongs in a bathhouse. The staterooms on both the men's and women's side need plastering and painting. The equipment such as beds and chairs should also have attention. The Gym which is used by both men and women needs paint, also ropes used in the installation of flying rings and ladders should be checked over and in the main replaced. This is about the best Gym in Hot Springs and I have seen large use of it as one of the features of the Fordyce Baths.

#### ROOF:-

This has been taken care of in third paragraph. However, it seems there is a slight demand for solar treatments. With the removal of the old cooling tank and baffling system, there is a good chance here to really have a "Roof Garden" as a sign in one of the hallways denotes what is now just a roof.

#### General:-

It is a shame that a house of this calibre has been allowed to deteriorate as it has. It should be brought back up to standard. I believe that in full repair it would have an appeal to a class of persons who would appreciate the equipment.

Paint, plaster and more paint seems to be the immediate needs with the acquisition of more modern and sanitary furniture equipment in the cooling rooms and bathhalls. It is disgusting to note that chairs and lounges have through years of usage gotten their leather covers rotted through the perspiring bathers who have used them. I don't think I would like to use this sort of equipment at all. It should be removed and new installed.

The small rooms used by the Chiropractist and the Mercury Rubber are all right for such uses. Equipment such as new chairs would help.

I estimate that to fully paint and repair this house and its equipment where necessary and to install new furniture etc., will run close to \$12,000.00.

This house has

Tubs

They are using  
available for usage.

Tubs, the rest being placed out of commission, but are

GEORGE C. BOLTON,  
Asst. Superintendent.



#### APPENDIX IV

List of expenditures for paint and repair of the Fordyce Bathhouse from 1942 through 1950, Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

Year 1942

NATURE OF PROJECTS	DATE STARTED	DATE COMPLETED	COST
Electrical equipment	Jan., 1942	Dec., 1942	1,050.70
Elevator B. & H. Otis Elevator Co.	Jan., 1942	Dec., 1942	297.00
Paint and tile	Jan., 1942	Dec., 1942	832.39
Building materials	Jan., 1942	Dec., 1942	122.17
Furniture repairs	Jan., 1942	Dec., 1942	80.36
Plumbing work	Jan., 1942	Dec., 1942	377.00
Miscellaneous materials	Jan., 1942	Dec., 1942	66.74
			2,825.34

Year 1943

NATURE OF PROJECTS	DATE STARTED	DATE COMPLETED	COST
Paint	Jan., 1943	Dec., 1943	453.47
Electrical S. & L.	Jan., 1943	Dec., 1943	152.20
Furniture upholstery	Apr., 1943	May, 1943	321.50
Plumbing materials	May, 1943	Dec., 1943	362.62
Building materials	Jan., 1943	Dec., 1943	137.66
Floor painting & repairs	Jan., 1943	Dec., 1943	71.50
Elevator S. & L.			
Otis Elevator Co.	Jan., 1943	Dec., 1943	289.75
Miscellaneous materials	Jan., 1943	Dec., 1943	32.36
			1,821.06

Year 1944

	NATURE OF PROJECTS	DATE STARTED	DATE COMPLETED	COST
1	Electrical equipment	Apr., 1944	June, 1944	1,421.61
2	Roof repairs	May, 1944	May, 1944	303.00
3	Paint	Jan., 1944	Dec., 1944	520.36
4	Elevator A. & R.	Jan., 1944	Dec., 1944	312.00
5	Plumbing and materials	Jan., 1944	Dec., 1944	367.07
6	Tile repairs	Oct., 1944	Oct., 1944	34.50
7	Upholstering F. " F.	Jan., 1944	Dec., 1944	143.64
8	Labor, painting	Jan., 1944	Dec., 1944	83.36
9	Miscellaneous supplies	Jan., 1944	Dec., 1944	210.36
				3,332.90
10	Purchase of water meter			372.00
				3,764.90



Year 1945

	NATURE OF PROJECTS	DATE STARTED	DATE COMPLETED	COST
1	Roofing repairs	Jan., 1945	Apr., 1945	974.50
2	Elevator W. & R. Otis Elevator Co. contract	Jan., 1945	Dec., 1945	324.00
3	M. & K. Grounds shrubbery	Oct., 1945	Oct., 1945	97.76
4	Electrical supplies and repairs	Jan., 1945	Dec., 1945	401.47
5	Paint	Jan., 1945	Dec., 1945	763.41
6	Glass	Jan., 1945	Dec., 1945	46.05
7	Machinery repairs	Jan., 1945	Dec., 1945	206.70
8	Painting labor	Jan., 1945	Dec., 1945	152.50
9	Plumbing	Oct., 1945	Oct., 1945	52.24
10	Clocks and repairs	Jan., 1945	Dec., 1945	121.25
11	Miscellaneous materials	Jan., 1945	Dec., 1945	210.40
				\$ 3,350.23

Year 1946

	NATURE OF PROJECTS	DATE STARTED	DATE COMPLETED	COST
1	Labor painting & plaster	Jan., 1946	Dec., 1946	156.02
2	Paint	Jan., 1946	Dec., 1946	319.48
3	Furniture and repairs to furniture	Jan., 1946	Dec., 1946	704.21
4	Plumbing and plumbing supplies	Jan., 1946	Dec., 1946	847.71
5	Electrical supplies and repairs	Jan., 1946	Dec., 1946	320.93
6	Machinery & equipment & supplies to same	Jan., 1946	Dec., 1946	315.20
7	Elevator maintenance Otis Co. contract	Jan., 1946	Dec., 1946	330.36
8	Miscellaneous supplies			28.27
				3,622.18
9	Sitz baths and installations and fire extinguishers			588.64
				4,210.82

Year 1947

	NATURE OF PROJECTS	DATE STARTED	DATE COMPLETED	COST
1	Elevator M. & P., Otis Elevator Co. Contract	Jan., 1947	Dec., 1947	331.42
2	Paint	Jan., 1947	Dec., 1947	969.12
3	Electrical supplies and services	Jan., 1947	Dec., 1947	386.56
4	Materials repair of building	Jan., 1947	Dec., 1947	524.23
5	Cleaning of outside of building & brick repairs	Apr., 1947	June, 1947	1,105.00
6	Plumbing supplies	Jan., 1947	Dec., 1947	41.72
7	Machinery supplies	Jan., 1947	Dec., 1947	109.82
8	Labor - painting & repairs	Jan., 1947	Dec., 1947	771.90
9	Miscellaneous materials	Jan., 1947	Dec., 1947	58.77
				\$ 4,298.01

Year 1948

	NATURE OF PROJECTS	DATE STARTED	DATE COMPLETED	COST
1	Electrical services and materials	Sept., 1948	Dec., 1948	847.59
2	Tile floor repairs	Apr., 1948	May, 1948	150.00
3	Cabinet making	Oct., 1948	Dec., 1948	98.39
4	Window and skylight materials	Oct., 1948	Dec., 1948	578.36
5	Building materials	Jan., 1948	Dec., 1948	319.23
6	Paint contract	Oct., 1948	Dec., 1948	87.52
7	Paint and Hardware materials	Jan., 1948	Dec., 1948	1,023.39
8	Elevator maintenance	Jan., 1948	Dec., 1948	334.91
9	Machinery fixture, and boiler repairs	Jan., 1948	Dec., 1948	325.40
10	Painting & skylight repairs, labor	Jan., 1948	Dec., 1948	3,046.77
11	Miscellaneous materials	Jan., 1948	Dec., 1948	134.98
				6,946.61
12	Equipment purchases, hair dryer, rubber tired truck, inter office communication system			321.91
				7,268.52



Year 1949

	NATURE OF PROJECTS	DATE STARTED	DATE COMPLETED	COST
1	Vapor Cabinet repairs	Apr., 1949	Apr., 1949	132.25
2	Building materials	Jan., 1949	Dec., 1949	110.88
3	Otis Elevator company Contract of R. & K.	Jan., 1949	Dec., 1949	405.76
4	Electrical services and supplies	Jan., 1949	Dec., 1949	634.90
5	Gymnasium floor sanding & painting	Apr., 1949	Apr., 1949	191.00
6	Upholstering furniture	Jan., 1949	Jan., 1949	200.00
7	Paint	Jan., 1949	Dec., 1949	768.84
8	Painting labor	Jan., 1949	Dec., 1949	637.00
9	Miscellaneous supplies and labor			194.83
				3,335.46
10	Purchase of Jan			75.00
				3,410.46

Year 1950

	NATURE OF PROJECTS	DATE STARTED	DATE COMPLETED	COST
1	Elevator maintenance and repairs - Otis elevator Company contract	Jan., 1950	Dec., 1950	448.98
2	Building materials	Jan., 1950	Dec., 1950	123.52
3	Glass repairs	Jan., 1950	Dec., 1950	105.53
4	Matress repairs	May, 1950	May, 1950	24.62
5	Electrical supplies	Jan., 1950	Dec., 1950	157.45
6	Radio repairs	Jan., 1950	Dec., 1950	32.95
7	Lawn seed	Oct., 1950	Oct., 1950	6.53
8	Paint	Jan., 1950	Dec., 1950	422.27
9	Labor, painting and for general repairs	Jan., 1950	Dec., 1950	2,230.00
10	Miscellaneous materials	Jan., 1950	Dec., 1950	35.05
				3,586.90
11	Purchase of 24 electric clocks	Jan., 1950	Jan., 1950	100.37
				\$ 3,687.27

APPENDIX V

Memorandum from Superintendent Donald S. Libbey to Fordyce Bathhouse Manager Byron L. Neimeyer, regarding inspection of Fordyce Bathhouse prior to lease renewal; August 9, 1954; Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

② DT

Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas

August 9, 1954

Mr. B. L. Meisner, Manager  
Fordyce Bathhouse  
Hot Springs, Arkansas

Dear Mr. Meisner:

Incident to the normal required negotiations for expiring contracts, the following should be considered, viz., a definite program of construction and rehabilitation of the Fordyce Bathhouse should be agreed upon by the concessioner (in this case, the Fordyce partners) and the Superintendent, Hot Springs National Park.

With you, on August 4, Assistant Superintendent George Bolton and myself inspected the Fordyce Bathhouse and facilities. On the whole, we found the bathhouse to be structurally in satisfactory condition. The following items appear to be in need of rehabilitation:

- 1 - The obsolete bowling alley installation should be removed and the basement space thereby released be available for more suitable bathhouse use.
- 2 - The showers in the men's and women's bath halls should be rehabilitated in order to provide modern fixtures and a more attractive appearance and accomplish economies in the use of water. The present showers are not in accord with the general attractive bath hall and consideration should be given to the installation of ~~jet~~ ~~whirlpool~~ ~~for~~ ~~the~~ ~~duration~~ ~~of~~ ~~use~~ and temperatures. Doubtless, such installations would result in a reduction of the shower water usage and resultant decrease in the Fordyce water charges. It is noted the average gallons per bath for the Fordyce Bathhouse amounted to 211.7 gallons for the month of June, which is far over the ~~amount~~ ~~of~~ 135 gallons allowed before a surcharge prevails.
- 3 - Explore the possibility of obtaining automatic controls for the use of water in the sitz baths which would also result in savings in the volume of water used.
- 4 - Vapor cabinets should be rehabilitated or replaced in accord with efficient and modern vapor cabinet practices, and sanitary tiling installed.



5 - The rooms for both the men and women's quarters - dressing rooms and related facilities - appear in need of modernization, rehabilitation, etc., in order to present more satisfactory working conditions. Adequate ventilation through use of exhaust fans appears desirable. This will be conducive to good employee morale.

6 - The obsolete automatic thermometer conduits for the bath tubs should be closed and thereby provide more sanitary conditions. It was noted that in addition, prescribed thermometers are being used which are in accordance with regulations which have prevailed for many years. It is recognized the rather unique thermometer conduits and thermometers were installed with a view to providing, as a unit, tubs with built-in thermometers, but experience has established such have proven difficult to clean and apparently it has not been possible to replace the built-in thermometers when necessary. The conduits should be closed with a porcelainized surface on an effective cement filling.

7 - Consideration should be given to the removal of the antiquated and unnecessary pumps and tanks. When removed, adequate space for a ship-shape engineer's work room could be available.

8 - Storage room facilities for inflammable materials, soaps and detergents should be provided so that good housekeeping practices may prevail. Metal cabinets for storage of soaps, cleaning materials and solutions should be provided.

9 - A complete overhaul of the marquee roof covering the front porch, should be accomplished, by the replacement of all broken glass.

10 - In case any faulty or leaking plumbing fixtures prevail, such should be replaced with leak proof fittings.

The above rehabilitation should be accomplished in order to place the entire property in a satisfactory condition to justify a new contract.

When the Partnership agreement is revised, as suggested, the following should be supplied:

1 - List any sub-contracts and copy of the Manager's contract with the Fordyce Partnership.

2 - A statement relating to the method of financing the rehabilitation set forth above in items 1 to 10, inclusive, should be incorporated in the letter accompanying the signed contract. It is presumed the use of reserves for rehabilitation will be the method employed, but a specific statement should be supplied.

Sincerely,

D. S. Libbey  
Superintendent

In triplicate

cc: Regional Director, Region Three  
In duplicate

DSL:ah

## APPENDIX VI

Brief Analysis of Fiscal History of Fordyce Bathhouse; compiled May 1962; Hot Springs National Park Central Files.

# BRIEF ANALYSIS OF FISCAL HISTORY OF FORDYCE BATHHOUSE

(COMPILED MAY 1962)

The Fordyce Bathhouse which opened for business March 1, 1915, was constructed at a cost of \$212,749.55, including equipment and fixtures. In July 14, 1927, Mr. John R. Fordyce requested a lowering of his rate to conform to those charged by the Maurice and Buckstaff and submitted the following tables of earnings to support his request:

## Earnings Before Depreciation

1915 (4 months)	\$ 4,728.25
1916	8,957.25
1917	19,786.22
1918	16,603.59
1919	17,536.78
1920	31,761.16
1921	34,166.09
1922	14,999.80
1923	11,932.80
1924	10,672.80
1925	7,092.48
1926	9,040.49
1927	6,058.73

He further stated no earnings would have been made if depreciation had been taken into consideration. This relief was not granted until April 17, 1930. In granting the requested rate reduction, Mr. Cammerer, Director, stated: "The chief reason for this reduction, after complete investigation, was that the bathhouses with which the Fordyce was in competition all had an attractive appearance, though offering about the same facilities to the prospective bather, and that the more attractive bathhouses with the lower rates obtained a greater volume of the business. At the time the higher rates for the Fordyce were established it was thought they were justifiable by its finer appearance and better facilities. But, after that time other bathhouses were extensively remodeled so that the Fordyce no longer enjoyed that distinction. As that was the only basic reason for the higher rates at the Fordyce in the first place, and as those rates were depriving it of its proportionate share of business, a decrease in rates was considered reasonable." However, effective February 1, 1939, against the desire of the bathhouse, the Service approved a \$1.00 increase in 21 bath ticket rate for the Fordyce, making it the highest authorized rate on Bathhouse Row, in which category it has remained. Further refinement of appointments and services in other bathhouses and effects of plant depreciation on the capital structure of the operating companies have made even further inequitable the higher rate the Fordyce is required to charge. This factor is at least a minor one beyond the control of the Fordyce management which has contributed to its financial straits.



Annual Report (1927 CY) as of December 31, 1927

Bldgs. & Structures	\$141,819.88
Mach. & Eq.	48,089.01
Furn. & Fix.	<u>22,840.66</u>
	212,749.55
Less ac. depreciation—	<u>82,059.60</u>
	\$130,689.95

Became a corporation, 1,500 shares @ \$100.00 each \$150,000.00; net worth  
 J. R. Fordyce, Pres. & Treasurer \$121,609.51  
 L. P. Fordyce, Vice President (Mrs. J. R. Fordyce)  
 T. K. Martin (Secy.)

Incorporation approved by Assistant Secretary of the Interior,  
 December 24, 1931.

Annual Report (1931 CY) as of December 31, 1931

Bldgs. & Structures	\$141,819.88
Mach. & Eq.	50,025.79
Furn. & Fix.	<u>22,840.66</u>
	214,686.33
Less ac. depreciation—	<u>115,867.83</u>
	\$ 98,818.50; net worth \$96,469.24

Annual Report (1941 CY) as of December 31, 1941

Bldgs. & Structures	\$141,819.88
Mach. & Eq.	55,582.39
Furn. & Fix.	<u>23,451.86</u>
	220,854.13
Less ac. depreciation—	<u>151,162.91</u>
	\$ 69,691.22; net worth \$67,334.03

Change to Co-Partnership, February 2, 1942

L. P. Fordyce  
 E. W. Fordyce  
 Downs Lander Fordyce  
 Ruth Fordyce  
 S. W. Fordyce III

By letter dated May 26, 1914, Assistant Secretary authorized construction  
 "of a building at an approximate cost of \$150,000, such building to be  
 complete by January 1, 1915.

By letter written in October 1914, Dr. Parks states: "From the best infor-  
 mation obtainable at the present time, the approximate cost of this bath-  
 house when completed will be \$175,000."

Fordyce opened for business March 1, 1915.

Mr. John Fordyce's letter of July 14, 1927, to Secretary of Interior: "The Fordyce Bathhouse was completed in March 1915, at a cost of \$141,819.88 for building construction, and \$70,929.87 for equipment and fixtures, making a total of \$212,749.55. The twenty-year lease was put in at the valuation of \$25,000, making a total investment of \$237,749.50.

The over-all earning record for the years 1927-1961, as tabulated below, does not reflect a return to the concessioner commensurate with his investment in his elaborate bathhouse.

Year	Capital Surplus (Net Worth)	Income	Expense	Net Profit or Loss	Rate of Return
1927-1942	\$1,458,402.08	\$753,533.94	\$740,685.91	\$12,848.03	
1943	70,464.93	110,291.89	85,144.48	25,147.41	35.68%
1944	67,010.75	143,031.69	107,037.25	35,994.44	53.71%
1945	67,958.18	161,087.20	120,729.49	40,357.71	59.39%
1946	68,315.89	169,013.09	136,565.99	32,447.10	47.50%
1947	64,512.99	156,528.38	131,210.95	25,317.43	39.24%
1948	67,357.81	142,510.25	126,962.23	15,548.02	23.08%
1949	66,405.83	131,208.12	117,393.75	13,814.37	20.80%
1950	63,836.05	116,556.84	108,875.48	7,681.36	12.03%
1951	59,517.41	111,593.80	107,047.39	4,546.41	7.64%
1952	65,807.17	108,779.11	109,318.21	- 539.10	- 0.82%
1953	49,101.10	112,440.76	106,263.75	6,177.01	12.58%
1954	45,191.94	103,453.46	100,163.67	3,289.79	7.28%
1955	40,626.62	96,720.18	96,770.17	- 49.99	- 0.12%
1956	38,184.21	91,700.24	90,957.92	742.32	19.44%
1957	36,826.53	93,196.36	94,366.79	- 1,170.43	- 3.18%
1958	32,056.10	84,288.80	86,020.56	- 1,731.76	- 5.40%
1959	29,349.34	82,534.54	91,018.27	- 8,483.73	-28.91%
1960	20,865.61	77,569.75	81,338.59	- 3,768.84	-18.06%
1961	16,296.77	71,994.72	77,697.15	- 5,702.43	-35.00%
Totals	\$2,428,087.31	\$2,918,033.12	\$2,715,568.00	\$202,465.12	
Yearly Average 1927-1961	\$69,373.92	\$83,372.37	\$77,587.66	\$5,784.72	8.34%

The concession audit report dated June 1, 1960, pursuant to an audit of the books and records of the Fordyce Bathhouse from January 1, 1955, through December 31, 1959, made by Auditors Alfred R. Andrews, Donnell J. Smith, and William P. Maguire, showed that the rehabilitation reserve required of the concessioner had been maintained through this period. It also showed that \$1,817.43 had been authorized to be charged against the reserve because of damage resulting from a flash flood in February 1956. The concessioner, therefore, had made an earnest effort to comply with this provision of his contract.

In September 1958, the bathhouse partners realized they were operating at a loss; they therefore began steps to sell their bathhouse in accordance with Service-prescribed procedures. Their formal "Invitation for Offers

and Prospectus" was dated December 29, 1958. However, in the intervening period, they have been unsuccessful in selling their concession, prospective buyers apparently deciding the purchase would not be a good risk.

During the calendar year 1961, the partners contributed \$4,600.05 to their bathhouse operation, though the loss for the year without the contribution amounted to \$5,702.43.





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Publication services were provided by the graphics staff of the Denver Service Center. NPS D-83 August 1988









